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Powerful storms sock the Northeast with heavy snow, rain and hurricane-force winds.

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You might not like what I'm about to tell you: It's time to grab a rope again.

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Gay Pride

Thousands of people take part in Australia's Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade.

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Tsunami warning causes brief evacuation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The tsunami warning in the wake of the 8.8 magnitude quake in Chile resulted yesterday in a brief evacuation of residents from low-lying areas on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

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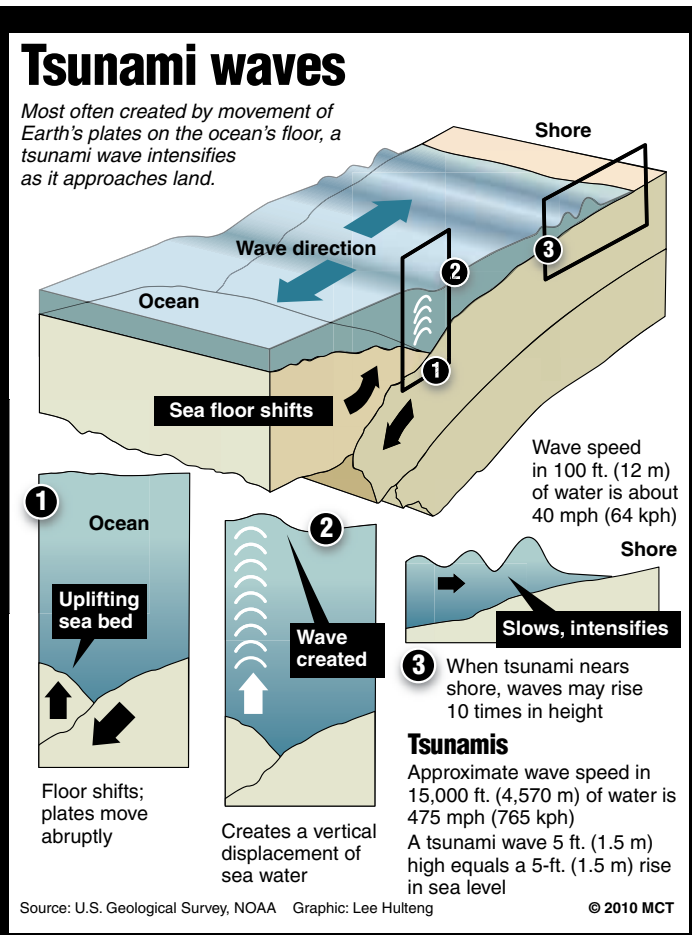
Tsunami waves
Most often created by movement of Earth's plates on the ocean's floor, a tsunami wave intensifies as it approaches land.
Shore
Wave direction
Ocean
Sea floor shifts
1
2
3
Wave speed in 100 ft. (12 m) of water is about 40 mph (64 kph)
Shore
Slows, intensifies
When tsunami nears shore, waves may rise 10 times in height
Ocean
Uplifting sea bed
Floor shifts; plates move abruptly
Wave created
Creates a vertical displacement of sea water
Tsunamis
Approximate wave speed in 15,000 ft. (4,570 m) of water is 475 mph (765 kph)
A tsunami wave 5 ft. (1.5 m) high equals a 5-ft. (1.5 m) rise in sea level
Source: U.S. Geological Survey, NOAA Graphic: Lee Hulteng
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Tsunami warning puts CNMI readiness to test

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Jasmin Cordova and four of her friends hang out on the grounds of Northern Marianas College yesterday morning.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

At first, Jasmin Cordova and four of her friends seemed like a group of people having a picnic on the grounds of Northern Marianas College yesterday morning. But they brought with them their passports, their savings, laptop computers, cameras and breakfast.

They were among the residents who sought higher ground after acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos elevated the tsunami watch to a tsunami warning at 9am yesterday, spawned by an early morning 8.8-mag-

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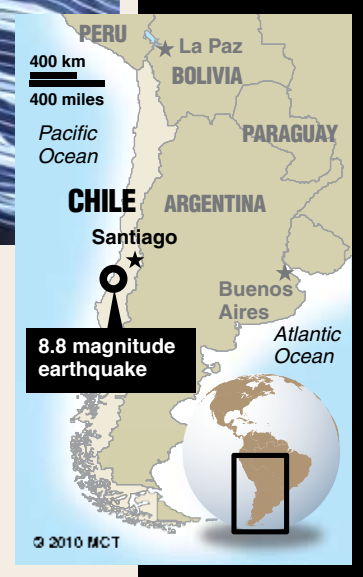
Chile assesses quake damage



RELATED NEWS

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- Chile quake was in 'elite class' PAGE 16

By EVA VERGARA and ROBERTO CANDIA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

TALCA, Chile (AP)—A weeping man strokes the hand of a dead woman in a collapsed cafe. Survivors huddle around bonfires in the rubble of their homes. Smashed cars lie beneath bridges torn asunder by one of history's strongest earthquakes.

Authorities in Chile put the official death toll from Saturday's 8.8-magnitude quake at 214, but said they believed the number would grow. They said 1.5 million Chileans were affected

See CHILE on Page 4

MCS team wins mock trial competition

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The team of Mount Carmel School emerged as this year's champion in the 12th Annual Mock Trial Competition, besting defending champion Marianas Baptist Academy during an intense championship round held Saturday at the Guma Hustisia in Susupe.

This marks the third time that MCS will represent the Commonwealth in the national mock trial competition that will be held this year in

See MCS on Page 4

Members of the Mount Carmel School team pose for a group photo after winning the 12th annual CNMI High School Mock Trial competition at the Guma Hustisia in Susupe Saturday morning.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Fitial reappoints AG Buckingham, five others. PAGE 5
NMI residents urged to back Sablan's monument bill. PAGE 6

Local

Retirees to be hired by PSS assured of health coverage

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

All retirees who will be hired by the Public School System as substitute teachers will be included in the Workers Compensation Plan even if they are working as "part-time" employees of the school system.

NMI Retirement Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon made this clear with retirees during Thursday night's assembly at the Multi-Purpose Center.

The Workers Compensation Commission is mandated by law to be the government's self-insurance fund. As such, it is responsible for providing compensation for all work-related injuries or deaths of CNMI government employees, including all medical expenses incurred to treat and or rehabilitate an injured employee.

"You will all still be covered by WCC, with PSS as your employer during the duration of your term at the school," Aguon explained.

In the same meeting, PSS Human Resource Officer Charlie Kenty encouraged retirees to join the education system by serving as part-time teachers or substitute.

Retirees who have bachelor's degree are being offered a $100 daily compensation while those with associate degrees will get $60 per day.

According to law, retired employees are only entitled to double-dip for 60 days per year.

Kenty admitted that because of the continuing need for more classroom teachers, the system has decided to tap the services of retirees, who are experienced in different fields.

He explained that because the duty is on an on-call basis, no regular contract is needed.

Forms for application were distributed to retirees last Thursday.

Kenty said that retirees who want to go back to teaching as substitutes are not required to take any Praxis tests. However, if they decide to continue their service on a regular basis, all requirements for a teaching position must be complied with.

Substitute teachers temporarily replace educators in the classroom for short periods only. This can be a day to a week, provided it will not exceed the 60 days allowed by law.

PSS described its partnership with the retirees association as a win-win situation for both parties because it would help the school system meet the needed teaching workforce on three islands.

Kenty said that PSS wants to establish a rolling substitute program for retirees and the system is willing to conduct workshops before the retirees actually serve the students in the classrooms.

Bordallo urges continued vigilance after tsunami alert

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo expressed yesterday her deepest sympathies for the victims of the earthquake in Chile and called on all of Guam's residents to remain vigilant and exercise caution in the face of the tsunami warning for the entire Pacific basin.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center had issued a widespread tsunami warning for the Pacific Region, including Guam, the Hawaiian Islands, American Samoa, Fiji, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Japan and portions of Russia. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center estimated the tsunami wave to arrive in Guam around 1pm yesterday, Feb. 28, 2010.

Bordallo

In a separate statement, Federal Emergency Management Agency administrator Craig Fugate said yesterday that FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security are closely monitoring the situation, and officials are in close contact with the State of Hawaii and the U.S. territories in the Pacific Ocean that could be impacted by a potential tsunami.

"FEMA stands ready to assist should a request for assistance be made, and does have pre-deployed assets in Hawaii, including food, water, generators and other resources. We urge all individuals to follow the direction provided by local officials," he said.

Bordallo echoed this, saying the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and other federal agencies are in communication and ready to provide any federal assistance should it be requested.

"My thoughts and prayers are with the people of Chile this morning," Bordallo said. "I urge all of Guam's residents to closely monitor the situation as it unfolds. Guam Homeland Security and the Office of Civil Defense will issue periodic updates and evaluations of the tsunami threat to Guam. I would echo their initial recommendations to stay away from low lying areas and the beaches on Sunday. I remain in contact with officials in Washington, and I will provide any pertinent information as it becomes available to me. I appreciate the efforts of federal officials to be in a position to coordinate a federal response should it be necessary. I know the President is monitoring the situation from the White House and I appreciate his leadership in this matter." ***(PR)***

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Most high school seniors want to pursue college on island

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 300 senior students enrolled in three public high schools on Saipan have expressed interest in staying and pursuing college on island after graduating this school year.

The translates to 74 percent of the 472 students who participated in last month's Senior Start Smart seminar conducted by the Northern Marianas College, in collaboration with the Public School System.

Data obtained from the college indicated that most participants were from Marianas High School, Kagman High School, and Saipan Southern High School.

The same survey showed that only 14 percent of participants aim to pursue college in the U.S. mainland.

Every year, PSS records over 500 graduates from its five secondary schools on three islands.

It is the objective of the Start Smart seminar to provide senior students an overview and orientation about college education, including potential scholarships and financial aid programs that would help them continue their education.

The number of senior students who participated in the latest Start Smart seminar comprised 88 percent of the total number of MHS senior students; 81 percent of the total KHS seniors class; and 85 percent of Saipan Southern's seniors class.

Of the 472 participants, 413 were able to properly complete the survey conducted at the end of the event.

An overwhelming 90 percent of the total participants showed a high level of understanding and awareness of college and the importance of higher education.

When asked to indicate knowledge of how to pay for college, 85 percent responded that they have a higher/much higher level of knowledge.

Last school year, a survey conducted at MHS by NMC indicated that majority of the graduating students would prefer to enroll at NMC despite its then accreditation problems.

It was only in June 2009 when NMC finally reaffirmed its accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Last year's data also showed that roughly 65 of MHS students want to enroll in college in off-island universities while some want to temporarily stop pursuing their college education or join the military.

Among the comments of student-respondents in this year's survey included lauding the NMC for taking the lead to brief and prepare seniors after graduation.

Other comments indicated that the seminar actually changed the students' perspective about going to NMC.

Saipan Tribune learned that the information gathered through the Start Smart seminar surveys are compiled to assist NMC and PSS staff coordinators improve the event and the information presented to participants.

"We are very proud of our accomplishments and positive feedbacks from participants of the Start Smart seminar. We hope the positive survey results will continue on to Tinian and Rota when we conduct the same seminars on both islands in the next few weeks," said NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera.

"We also would like to thank Dr. Rita Sablan and the faculty and staff of PSS for their ongoing support of NMC's efforts and its mission to educate high school students about the importance of post-secondary education," she added.

NMC said the Tinian Start Smart seminar is scheduled for March 17 at the Tinian Dynasty while it is set for March 29 to 30 at the NMC Rota.

Fire hits Asia Marine Sports stand

A fire of unknown cause over the weekend gobbled the concessionaire stand of the Asia Marine Sports, located at the beach site behind the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

Burned were two picnic tables, a few chairs and some items placed in a tent. The roof of the tent was reportedly stolen a few weeks ago before the fire broke out.

The Department of Public Safety is expected to release more information today, Monday, about the fire.

The Asia Marine Sports stand is adjacent to that of Extreme Marine Sports.

Josie Pineda, co-owner of Extreme Marine Sports, said they learned about the fire only yesterday at 8am when they reported for work.

Pineda, however, said that on Saturday afternoon, there was smoke coming out of the grassy area near the tent of Asia Marine Sports.

Pineda said some customers playing beach volleyball noticed the smoke but there was no fire.

"Later the smoke was gone. Our customers left and we closed at 6pm," she said.

Some concerned citizens in the area told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the police should regularly check the Carolinian Utt area every night.

They said that bystanders with criminal records hang out in the area at night and when they get drunk they would vandalize and steal items. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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CHILE

From Page 1

and 500,000 homes severely damaged by the mammoth temblor.

"We think the real (death) figure tops 300 and we believe this will continue to grow," said Carmen Fernandez, head of the National Emergency Agency.

President Michelle Bachelet, who leaves office March 11, declared a "state of catastrophe" in central Chile. "It was a catastrophe of devastating consequences," she said.

Bachelet said the government had not asked for assistance from other countries. If it does, President Barack Obama said, the United States "will be there." Around the world, leaders echoed his sentiment.

As night fell Saturday, about a dozen men and children sat around a bonfire in the remains of their homes in Curico, a town 122 miles (196 kms) south of the capital, Santiago.

"We were sleeping when we felt the quake, very strongly. I got up and went out the door. When I looked back my bed was covered in rubble," said survivor Claudio Palma.

Fabian Miners, 22, was put in charge of tallying damages in Curico and surrounding villages. He said he had counted 90 deaths in the area, mainly people over 50 or 60 who could not get out of their falling adobe-walled homes in time.

Erika Vasquez, 28, said she and 14 of her relatives were sheltering under three small tarpaulins in the park in front of their collapsed home.

"They told us to go somewhere else, but all our things are here," said Vasquez, pointing at the rubble of what had been the family's home for 44 years.

The quake tore apart houses, bridges and highways, and Chileans near the epicenter were thrown from their beds by the force of the mega-quake, which was felt as far away as Sao Paulo in Brazil—1,800 miles (2,900 kilometers) to the east.

The full extent of damage remained unclear as dozens of aftershocks—one nearly as powerful as Haiti's devastating Jan. 12 earthquake—shuddered across the disaster-prone Andean nation.

MCS

From Page 1

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on May 6 through 9.

In the 12-year history of the contest, Mount Carmel teams were champion in 1999, 2008, and 2010.

The eight students comprising the winning team were Geza Baka III, Maria S. Balajadia, Kevin G. Bautista, Hazel B. Doctor, Ryan E. Ortizo, Janela Revilla, Keno San Pablo, and Anastasia Schweiger, who was also selected as the competition's overall best defense witness.

The team members attributed their success to the hard work and dedication of their attorney coaches, Edward Buckingham and Joseph Taijeron, who have been helping the team since 2003.

The guidance and perseverance of the team's teacher coaches—Galvin Deleon Guerrero and Rosiky Camacho—were also lauded by team members.

"It feels really good! But I think everyone did a good job as well. We're very happy with the outcome and proud that we made it," said Balajadia.

Balajadia has been participating in the mock trial contest for four years now but this will be her first time to compete in the national contest.

She said things wouldn't have gone the team's way without the participation of their coaches and fellow students who helped them practice, research, and formulate the team arguments.

Ryan Ortizo described the win as "a great outcome" for everyone on the team.

"Our team, with our coaches, really worked hard for this and all the sacrifices paid off. We're very proud!" he said.

According to attorney coach Taijeron, the team will do its best to prepare and represent the CNMI well in the national competition. He said he will collaborate with CNMI Bar Association members to make the necessary preparations for the team.

Although MCS started case preparation only in September last year, Taijeron said they've been training the students for years.

"We started this case in September 2009 but we've been preparing our students for this moment for years…" he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Buckingham described the group as an "awesome team" that has great chance in the national contest.

"I think this is an awesome team and we're really hopeful that we will do well at the national," Buckingham said, adding that as coaches, "we're not giving students fish…but actually teaching them how to become fishermen."

Buckingham said they gave the students tools so they will act like real lawyers in a real courtroom.

"We're very proud of our team," he added.

There were nine judges and MCS garnered six votes against MBA's three votes.

'Other winners'

The MBA team emerged as the second best team in the competition and bagged two individual awards: Yong Hwa Choi as overall best prosecution attorney and Dong Hee Lee as best defense attorney.

Lee was a member of the team that competed in the national mock trial in Atlanta last year.

Saipan Southern High School placed third while Rota High School got the fourth spot this year.

Other individual honors went to Marianas High School's Christian Cruz, who was selected as the overall best prosecution attorney.

The competition's first professionalism award was conferred on Marianas High School for exemplifying the guiding principles of advocacy—professionalism, courtesy and respect to judges and jurors, and the justice system.

There were 85 students from nine public and private secondary schools that competed in the two-day event.

CNMI

From Page 1

nitude earthquake in Chile on Saturday.

The tsunami was estimated to hit the CNMI at 1pm yesterday but the tsunami warning was cancelled at 10:30am.

"We're not too scared but it's better to be prepared than sorry," Cordova told *Saipan Tribune* as she and her friends exchanged stories and waited for an "all clear" status from the government.

She and her friends live near the beach in San Jose and Chalan Kanoa.

Nearby, firefighters were also waiting for notification from the Emergency Management Office.

Firefighter 1 Gary Cruz and Firefighter 1 Robert Camacho said they have been on heightened alert since Saturday night.

They said fire trucks in villages near the shoreline, from Koblerville to Garapan, for example, were moved to higher ground.

On Saturday night, a tsunami watch for the Northern Marianas was in effect. At the time, no evacuation had been ordered, but residents were advised to avoid low-lying areas, to familiarize themselves with evacuation routes, and to keep informed of the developing situation.

Shortly after Inos elevated it to a tsunami warning, police patrol vehicles began informing the residents in low lying areas about the need to evacuate.

At 9:20am, for example, a police officer in a patrol vehicle was driving around the San Jose and Oleai neighborhood, notifying residents about the tsunami warning.

Motorists were also advised to minimize traffic and limit travel to evacuation sites only, to ensure the safety of everyone.

Even inmates at the Department of Corrections in Susupe were temporarily moved to the NMC campus because of the tsunami warning but were immediately returned to the Susupe facility after the cancellation.

Unlike previous tsunami warnings in the CNMI, this time around did not see clogged roads leading to main evacuation routes because people had up to four hours to prepare for evacuation.

At 10:30am, Inos cancelled the tsunami warning after receiving advisory from the Hawaii-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

Residents breathed a sigh of relief for the tsunami warning's cancellation. If anything, the tsunami warning tested CNMI residents, businesses and the government's emergency response preparedness.

Despite the "all clear" status for the CNMI, boaters and ocean recreation users were advised to exercise caution as ocean conditions may still be affected by strong currents.

Banana boat riding, jet skiing, and other marine recreational activities resumed right after 10:30am on the Saipan Lagoon.

Hotels along Saipan coastlines also activated their emergency response plans but even before they could evacuate their hotel guests, the "all clear" status had already been hoisted.

"When we had the 'all clear', we didn't need to evacuate our hotel guests. That would have caused panic. But that's always our plan—to bring them to safety," said Hafa Adai Beach Hotel front desk staff Sly Sakazio.

Juan I. Tenorio, personnel manager of Hafa Adai Beach Hotel in Garapan, said the hotel takes its emergency response plan seriously.

Even bookings for Jade Lady III's daily sunset cruise had to be temporarily halted when they were advised of the tsunami warning yesterday morning.

Saipan Sunset Cruise's reservation staff member Lenny Floresca said at around 11:30am, the company resumed bookings for yesterday afternoon's sunset cruise.

The Chile quake claimed the lives of over 300 and affected 2 million more in some way, and triggered tsunami warnings and watches throughout the Pacific region.

But the tsunami watches and warnings were cancelled less than 18 hours later throughout the region, except for Russia, Japan and the Philippines.

From Washington, D.C., Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) said he's in touch with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Department of the Interior that are monitoring the tsunami threat and advising the public and that would have responsibility for response and recovery efforts in the event a tsunami does reach the CNMI.

In a statement, Sablan said FEMA headquarters, as well as the Region IX office in California that handles the Pacific territories, is monitoring the tsunami situation, and has informed him that FEMA will be activating its National Response Coordination Center. But the tsunami warning for the CNMI was cancelled within one-and-a-half hours.

Sablan said he will continue to track the tsunami threat and stands ready to ensure that all federal resources are available to assist the people of the CNMI in whatever way is necessary.

TSUNAMI

From Page 1

The Emergency Management Office issued the tsunami warning at 9am yesterday and ordered the evacuation, but soon cancelled it at 10:30am.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric David told *Saipan Tribune* that the evacuation on the three islands went smoothly.

"Our role was to make sure that everybody's evacuated to safer grounds," David said.

He said police officers were also dispatched to evacuation zones and routes to ensure the orderly movement of people.

Many residents, however, began evacuating their homes as early as Saturday night when the CNMI Emergency Management Office issued a tsunami watch for the CNMI as 11pm.

The evacuees only began returning to their homes after an hour when an EMO staff went on air in a local radio station to advice people not to panic as it was only a tsunami watch and that there was no order for evacuation at that time. The EMO staff also explained that the estimated time of arrival for the tsunami wave in the CNMI was 1pm Sunday.

The 8.8 magnitude earthquake occurred near the coast of central Chile at 4:34pm Saturday CNMI time. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center immediately issued a tsunami warning—its highest alert—for Hawaii, where incoming waves could cause damage along the coastlines across the island chain.

EMO bulletins

In EMO's first bulletin, issued Saturday at 11pm, the agency said that acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos had placed the entire CNMI under a tsunami watch.

A tsunami watch means to prepare, while a tsunami warning means to take action.

A tsunami watch is an alert that a tsunami may have been formed following an earthquake. The watch will either be upgraded to a warning in subsequent bulletins or cancelled, depending on the severity of the tsunami.

A tsunami warning indicates that a tsunami has been confirmed and a threat to life and property exists. Immediate action for evacuation in coastal areas is required.

In its first bulletin, EMO warned that an earthquake of this size has the potential to generate destructive tsunami waves that can strike distant coastlines within hours.

The agency then stated that the estimated time of arrival for the tsunami wave in the CNMI was at 1pm Sunday. At the time, EMO said no evacuation of residents to higher grounds has been ordered.

As the news about the earthquake and tsunami watch spread in the community Saturday night, many residents in low-lying areas on Saipan decided to move to Capital Hill, San Vicente, Fina Sisu, As Lito and other higher areas. Many went back to their homes at 12am Sunday after learning that there was no need to evacuate at that time.

At 2am EMO issued another bulletin that maintained the tsunami watch for all islands in the Commonwealth. EMO said no evacuation was needed, but advised residents to avoid all beaches, low-lying areas, and to familiarize themselves with evacuation routes.

EMO issued the same advisory at 4am and 7am yesterday.

At 9am, Inos elevated the tsunami watch to a tsunami warning for the entire CNMI due to a reported imminent threat posed by potentially destructive waves. Inos asked the public to stay away from beaches and low-lying areas and to begin early evacuation to higher grounds. Residents without transportation were advised to proceed to the nearest school bus stops to be picked up by Public School System buses.

EMO also identified the designated evacuation routes and safe zones on three islands.

Hotels were advised to activate their respective emergency plans.

Managaha closed down

At 9:30am, *Saipan Tribune* learned that Managaha Island was closed down and tourists were sent back to Saipan.

Josie Pineda, co-owner of Extreme Marine Sports behind the Carolinian Utt, said their boat, which was carrying tourists, was asked to leave after reaching Managaha at 9:30am.

"It's for the safety of our customers, it's okay," Pineda said.

Chiaki Kobayashi, Mina Igarashi, and Konomi Okuyama, all female Japanese tourists, were among the passengers of Extreme Marine Sports' boat that was not allowed to enter Managaha.

The tourists said they were sad and shocked about the tsunami warning but that they still plan to go back to Managaha if they have time before leaving for Japan.

Cancelled

At 10:30am yesterday, Inos and EMO cancelled the tsunami warning and issued an "all clear" status for the CNMI at the advice of the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

"I would like to thank the public for their understanding and cooperation during this period and I'd like to recognize the members of the Response Alert Coordinators team for their efforts and participation in ensuring that everyone in the Commonwealth was properly safeguarded," Inos said.

Fitial reappoints AG Buckingham, five others

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has reappointed Edward T. Buckingham as CNMI attorney general, six months after his original appointment and Senate confirmation.

Buckingham is the latest Cabinet member to be appointed or reappointed by the governor, who began his second term in office in January.

"I expect Mr. Buckingham to continue to capably manage the Office of the Attorney General with the continued support of the administration and Legislature, and the people we were elected to represent," said Fitial in a statement. He reappointed Buckingham on Feb. 16.

Prior to becoming the CNMI attorney general in August 2009, Buckingham served as an assistant attorney general since 2003.

Fitial also appointed former Rep. Ignacio DLG. Demapan as resident executive director of the Indigenous Affairs Office. The governor's special adviser for indigenous affairs, Gonzalo Q. Santos, passed away last year.

Buckingham and Demapan will be serving in acting capacities until confirmed by the Senate.

If confirmed by the Senate, Demapan will return to the helm of the Indigenous Affairs Office, a post he held from 1998 to 2002 under the administration of former Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

"The Lt. Governor and I are confident that Mr. Demapan is qualified to fulfill the vital responsibilities of this office and will be an asset to our Administration," Fitial said in a letter to Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota).

Other reappointments

Fitial also reappointed four others, but their reappointments do not need the advice and consent of the Senate.

Margarita Olopai-Taitano has been reappointed director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, while Pedro Sablan remains the director for the Historic Preservation Office.

Jerome Ierome continues to serve as executive director of the Criminal Justice Planning Agency, while Thomas Camacho retains his post as special assistant for Disability Policy and Programs.

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations chaired by Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) will start tomorrow the public hearings on the governor's appointments of former Rep. Oscar M. Babauta as Department of Public Lands secretary and Martin Sablan as Department of Public Works secretary.

The Senate EAGI Committee will also hold a public hearing on the reappointment of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago Tudela on Wednesday.

So far, Fitial reappointed and appointed 11 Cabinet officials needing Senate confirmation, including the heads of Public Safety, Commerce, Lands and Natural Resources, Public Lands, Public Works, Personnel Management, Community and Cultural Affairs, Corrections, Public Defender, Attorney General, and Indigenous Affairs Office.

Covenant Party to have US delegate candidate

Gregorio "Kachuma" Camacho, chairman of the ruling Covenant Party, said yesterday that the party will have its own candidate in this year's federal election for the CNMI's congressional delegate seat.

"We have completed the selection of our delegate candidate and we expect to call for a press conference in the coming days," said Camacho.

While Camacho did not disclose the candidate's identity, he did indicate that the committee exerted efforts to ensure that the Covenant Party selects the best candidate to represent the CNMI in the U.S. Congress.

With the election just eight months away, excitement is building within the Covenant Party, coming off a historic runoff election victory this past November.

"I am confident that our supporters will maintain the party's momentum as we head toward the delegate election," added the chairman.

The Covenant Party did not have a candidate in the first delegate election. ***(PR)***

Ex-convict gets 29 months for violating probation

The federal court on Friday revoked the supervised release of a convicted robber for violating anew his probation conditions when he reportedly attacked the parents of his spouse with a knife.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex Munson ordered Melvin N. Basa to spend 29 months in prison and had him participate in a substance abuse and anger management programs as well as the 500 hours of drug treatment program.

The federal court sentenced Basa in February 2000 to 102 months in prison for robbery. His probation was modified several times due to failure to comply with conditions. In May 2008, the court sentenced him to seven months in jail for violating his probation. During the revocation hearing on Friday, Basa admitted his violation. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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QUARTER MASTER ROAD
BEACH ROAD
TO GARAPAN
TO SAN JOSE

NMI residents urged to back Sablan's monument bill

The Friends of the Mariana Trench Monument is urging Northern Marianas residents to continue expressing their support for building a Mariana Trench Visitors Center and Headquarters in the CNMI.

"Your voice is being heard in the halls of the United States Congress," said Friends of the Monument's vice chair Agnes McPhetres, "but this fight is far from over and this is only the beginning."

The Friends is campaigning for a visitors center and headquarters to be built in the CNMI and has waged a letter writing campaign urging the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans, and Wildlife to support U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's H.R. 3511, the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument Visitor Facility Authorization Act of 2009.

Rep. Madeleine Bordallo of Guam had introduced a competing bill, H.R. 4493, that would build a visitors center and other infrastructure on Guam, not CNMI. The Friends of the Monument is opposed to Bordallo's bill.

McPhetres traveled to Washington, DC last week to deliver the Friends of the Monument's testimony and to testify on behalf of the 6,000 CNMI residents who signed petitions in support of creating a monument. McPhetres' testimony asked the Subcommittee to "do the right thing" and "place the headquarters for the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument in the CNMI."

During the hearing, Sablan entered into the official congressional record over 150 letters, e-mails, and comments in support of H.R. 3511, many written by supporters and members of the Friends of the Monument.

"We are grateful to all the residents who are helping us bring the headquarters to CNMI," said Friends' director Angelo Villagomez. "It was the support of our people that resulted in the creation of the monument and they are deserving of the social, economic, and environmental benefits promised by the government of the United States."

Residents can submit testimony in support of Sablan's H.R. 3511 up until this Friday, March 5, 2009. Letters should be addressed to Bordallo and copies of all letters should be sent to Sablan. The Friends of the Monument is offering assistance in writing letters and can be reached at marianamonument@gmail.com and angelovillagomez@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Friends of the Monument's vice chair Agnes McPhetres, right, testifies in the U.S. Congress in support of a proposal support to build a Mariana Trench Visitors Center and Headquarters in the CNMI.

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State Board of Education, Public School System

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Please be advised that the Head Start Program is a federally funded program that has Eligibility and Selection Criteria. Registering your child does not guarantee automatic enrollment. The program currently enrolls children between the ages of 3 and 4. Children cannot be accepted for enrollment prior to their 3rd birthday.

For more information, please call us at 323 7446 or 322-1739.

Artists' fee cut in half for Flame Tree Arts Festival

Arts Council brings back 3-day celebration in Susupe

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture has cut in half the fee for artists who wish to participate in this year's Flame Tree Arts Festival, which will take place at the Susupe Civic Center.

From last year's $100 registration fee for individual artists, the council lowered the amount to $50, covering the three-day festivities on April 23 to 25.

Arts and education coordinator Parker Yobei disclosed that the festival committee made the decision to support the agency's goal of helping promote local artists and their works.

The council, however, increased the charge it collects from food vendors, raising the amount from $600 per station to $700.

Registration for food vendors and artists will open on March 8 through March 30.

There are over a hundred stations available for this year's arts festival, with 20 reserved for food vendors. The rest are for artists, government agencies, and organizations wanting to promote their products and services.

Yobei said the council will charge $300 per booth for non-profit groups while government agencies such as public schools, Northern Marianas College, and Division of Youth Services will be charged $30.

The council emphasized that food vendors who wish to sell liquor must comply with all the requirements and licenses set by the Commerce Department.

The coordinator said arts and education demonstrations will still have special booths during the occasion.

The Arts Council earlier said it was planning to bring the celebration back to the American Memorial Park due to its bigger site. However, due to some restrictions and guidelines for using federal land, the council decided to conduct the event at the Civic Center, the same venue for last year's festival.

Theme, budget

The festival committee has finalized this year's theme, which is "Weaving Cultures and Arts for Social and Economic Opportunities."

Invitations to participants and off-island delegates are now being prepared for mailing out.

Yobei said the parade of cultures and the float competition will remain as one of the highlights of the occasion and cash prizes will await deserving winners.

CCAC is also conducting an essay and poster-design contest that will be open to students in both private and public schools.

For the essay contest, three winners will be named in three divisions: elementary, middle school, and high school. The best essay will receive $300 prize for each division while the overall poster design winner will get $300.

Entries for both categories must be submitted to the council on or before March 15.

Saipan Tribune learned that the council trimmed the festivities from the previous years' four-day celebration to three days this year due to limited resources.

The council had proposed a $50,000 budget for the three-day celebration to cover for the logistics and accommodation of off-island guests.

The Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival is the largest arts and cultural festival held in Micronesia. Every year, it draws large crowds not only from Saipan but also from many neighboring islands.

The event, which serves as a congregation of fascinating customs and traditions, aims to bring the Micronesian region together for a celebration of its rich cultures and history.

Judge allows retirees group to intervene in Fund suit

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo on Friday allowed the board of directors of the Commonwealth Retirees Association to intervene in the Retirement Fund's lawsuit against the CNMI government.

Govendo said this is his first time to come across a post-judgment intervention but, since the Fund and the CNMI government did not oppose the group's request, he will grant CRA's motion to intervene.

"I always believe that the more, the merrier," the judge said.

Govendo reminded the CRA that there was already a decision in the lawsuit and so therefore the time for appeal is over.

"If you come up with new ideas, believe me I will listen to you. We need a lot of brains on this," Govendo told CRA directors, members and supporters who watched the hearing.

CRA, through its secretary Oscar C. Camacho, asked Govendo to give them the opportunity to provide input, review, access, and or comment on any proposed solutions in the lawsuit as they have an interest in the outcome of the proceedings.

CRA, a non-profit corporation, is composed of members of the Defined Benefit Plan of the Fund. Its chairman is Juan M. Sablan.

CRA asked the court to set a status conference for setting any proposed guideline for CRA's participation in the eventual resolution of the dispute.

The Fund filed the lawsuit against the government, Gov. Benigno Fitial, Department of Finance, and then Finance Secretary Eloy Inos in 2006 over the government's failure to remit required payments.

On June 29, 2009, Govendo issued a decision that found the CNMI government owing the Fund $231.6 million in damages.

In the same ruling, the judge found unconstitutional Public Law 15-15, a law that suspended payment of all government obligations to the Fund in Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007.

In an interview after Friday's hearing, RCA chair Sablan said Govendo's decision to allow them to intervene will allow them to know how the Fund will pay the retirees the $231 million plus the judgment's accumulated interests.

"It's good for the Retirement and good for the retirees to know what's happening with the settlement," Sablan said.

CPA employees excluded from govt health insurance

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Employees of the Commonwealth Ports Authority remain excluded from the government's health and life insurance coverage that will be administered by new carrier Individual Assurance Company, according to the NMI Retirement Fund.

Fund Administrator Mark A. Aguon and IAC agent Donald C. Barcinas confirmed this during Thursday night's assembly of retirees at the Susupe Multi-Purpose Center.

Aguon disclosed that the ports authority pulled out from the government's group health life insurance program in the 1990s and procured its own insurance policy.

To date, there are a total of 192 CPA personnel on three islands who are not included in the government-funded insurance program.

Aguon explained that, although CPA is part of the CNMI government, it will be responsible for procuring insurance coverage for its own personnel.

He said CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero had expressed willingness to have all the employees covered by IAC but the decision ultimately rests with the CPA board.

"We will try to bring them back into the program and the CPA executive director has been notified about this. He will raise the issue to the CPA board for a decision," Aguon said.

Saipan Tribune learned that IAC had initially expressed willingness to bring CPA back into the fold if 75 percent of eligible members of the ports authority will enroll in the plan.

Last Friday was the deadline for enrollment in the program but the Fund hinted that the schedule would be extended for Rota and Tinian.

'Unfair for CPA employees, retirees'

During last Wednesday's board meeting, board chair Sixto Igisomar described the situation as "unfair" to CPA employees who have no choice but to take the offer of CPA management.

Igisomar cited the need to revisit the law that allowed CPA to get its own insurance policy in order to find a way to help ports authority employees who may want to be covered by the Fund's insurance program.

He referred the matter to a committee for review and recommendation.

As of Thursday, the Fund had yet to determine if CPA is the only autonomous agency that will be affected by the IAC coverage.

"We are in the process of finding out if there are any other agencies that are going out on their own [insurance coverage for employees]," Aguon told *Saipan Tribune.*

CNMI autonomous agencies include the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Commonwealth Development Authority, and the Public School System.

Aetna Global terminated its contract to administer the government's health and life insurance in Dec. 15 last year due to some contract dispute with the Fund.

The Fund issued an emergency request for proposal and IAC was awarded the contract, effective Jan. 1, 2010.

Saipan Tribune learned that IAC formerly handled the same government insurance program prior to Aetna Global.

Because there was a gap between Dec. 15 and Dec. 31 during which no insurance carrier was onboard, Aguon said the government will still be liable for any death insurance incurred in the intervening 15 days.

According to Public Law 10-19, which transferred the administration of the Group Health and Life Insurance Programs to the NMI Retirement Fund, the government is responsible for paying for the health and life insurance of employees and not the Fund. The law was enacted in order to provide a critical safety net for government employees and their families.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH
MARCH 2010

"The Power of Cooperative Doing - The Act of Empowering Others Empowers You!"

Monday, March 01, 2010 - SAIPAN
PROCLAMATION SIGNING CEREMONY
March 2010 DD Awareness Month
Venue: Governor's Office, Conference Rm.
Time: 3:00pm
Note: To register call CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/ Seating is limited. Go to www.cnmicdd.org for more information.

Friday, March 03 & 04, 2010- TINIAN
FOCUS GROUP SURVEY
Conducted by: CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Staff
Venue: To Be Announced
Time: To Be Announced

Friday, March 05, 2010- TINIAN
FORUM "MEET YOUR POLICY MAKER"
Panelist: 17th Commonwealth Legislature
(Tinian Delegation)
Venue: Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino
Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Note: To register call CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/ Seating is limited. Go to www.cnmicdd.org for more information.

Wednesday, March 10, 2010 - ROTA
REGISTRATION
Time: 7:30am - 8:15am

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
Facilitators: Raymond D. Diaz & Lillian Ada, CDD Staff
Venue: NMC Rota Campus
Time: 8:30am -8:45am

SELF-ADVOCACY
Presenters: Connie Sue Deherrera, Cynthia Susan Berkheimer, Laura Marie Matthews, Center for Self Advocacy, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Venue: NMC Rota Campus
Time: 8:45am - 10:00am

CONCURRENT SESSION
10:15am – 11:30am
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY & EDUCATION
Presenters: Christie L. Sablan, AT Coordinator & Jerry McVicar, AT Specialist
Venue: NMC Rota Campus

YOUTH LEADERSHIP
Presenter: Connie Sue Deherrera, Cynthia Susan Berkheimer, Laura Marie Matthews, Center for Self Advocacy, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Venue: NMC Rota Campus

LUNCH KEYNOTE: UCEDD OVERVIEW
Facilitator: John Manalo & Marissa F. Guerrero, Northern Marianas College-University Centers for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities
Venue: NMC Rota Campus
Time: 11:30am - 12:45pm

CONCURRENT SESSION
12:45pm – 2:00pm
SELF-ADVOCACY- KNOW YOURSELF
Facilitators: John Manalo & Marissa F. Guerrero, Northern Marianas College -University Centers for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities
Venue: NMC Rota Campus

HOW TO SCHMOOZE YOUR LEGISLATORS
Presenters: Connie Sue Deherrera, Cynthia Susan Berkheimer, Laura Marie Matthews, Center for Self Advocacy, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Venue: NMC Rota Campus

R.O.P.E.S
Presenters: Tom Thornburgh & Greg Borja, Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.
Venue: NMC Rota Campus
Note: To register call CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/ Seating is limited. Go to www.cnmicdd.org for more information.

Saturday, March 13, 2010 - TINIAN
REGISTRATION:
Time: 7:30am - 8:15am

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
Facilitators: Raymond D. Diaz & Lillian Ada, CDD Staff
Venue: Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino
Time: 8:30am -8:45am

SELF-ADVOCACY TRAINING
Presenters: Connie Sue Deherrera, Cynthia Susan Berkheimer, Laura Marie Matthews, Center for Self Advocacy, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Venue: Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino
Time: 8:45am - 10:00am

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
10:15am – 11:30am
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY & EDUCATION
Presenters: Christie L. Sablan, AT Coordinator & Jerry McVicar, AT Specialist:
Venue: Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino

YOUTH LEADERSHIP
Presenters: Connie Sue Deherrera, Cynthia Susan Berkheimer, Laura Marie Matthews, Center for Self Advocacy, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Venue: Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino

LUNCH KEYNOTE: UCEDD OVERVIEW
Facilitator: John Manalo & Marissa F. Guerrero, NMC-UCEDD
Venue: Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino
Time: 11:30am - 12:45pm

CONCURRENT SESSION
12:45pm – 2:00pm
SELF-ADVOCACY- "KNOW YOURSELF"
Facilitators: John Manalo & Marissa F. Guerrero, Northern Marianas College -University Centers for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities
Venue: Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino

HOW TO SCHMOOZE YOUR LEGISLATOR
Presenters: Connie Sue Deherrera, Cynthia Susan Berkheimer, Laura Marie Matthews, Center for Self Advocacy, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Venue: Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino

R.O.P.E.S
Presenters: Tom Thornburgh & Greg Borja, Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.
Venue: Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino
Note: To register call CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/ Seating is limited. Go to www.cnmicdd.org for more information.

Friday, March 19, 2010 - SAIPAN
REGISTRATION
Venue: Saipan World Resort
Time: 7:30am - 8:00am

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
Facilitators: Raymond D. Diaz & Lillian Ada, CDD Staff
Venue: Saipan World Resort
Time: 8:00am -8:45am

SELF-ADVOCACY
Presenters: Connie Sue Deherrera, Cynthia Susan Berkheimer, Laura Marie Matthews, Center for Self Advocacy, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Venue: Saipan World Resort
Time: 8:45am - 10:00am

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
10:10am – 11:30am
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY & EDUCATION
Presenters: Christie L. Sablan, AT Coordinator, Jerry McVicar, AT Specialist
Venue: Saipan World Resort

YOUTH LEADERSHIP
Presentesr: Connie Sue Deherrera, Cynthia Susan Berkheimer, Laura Marie Matthews, Center for Self Advocacy, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Venue: Saipan World Resort

LUNCH KEYNOTE: UCEDD OVERVIEW
Facilitator: John Manalo & Marissa F. Guerrero, Northern Marianas College-University Centers for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities
Venue: Saipan World Resort
Time: 11:30am - 12:45pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
12:45pm – 2:00pm
SELF-ADVOCACY-"KNOW YOURSELF"
Facilitators: John Manalo & Marissa F. Guerrero, Northern Marianas College -University Centers for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities
Venue: Saipan World Resort

HOW TO SCHMOOZE YOUR LEGISLATOR:
Presenters: Connie Sue Deherrera, Cynthia Susan Berkheimer, Laura Marie Matthews, Center for Self Advocacy, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Venue: Saipan World Resort

R.O.P.E.S
Presenters: Tom Thornburgh & Greg Borja, Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.
Venue: Saipan World Resort
Note: To register call CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/ Seating is limited. Go to www.cnmicdd.org for more information.

Friday, March 26, 2010 – SAIPAN
FORUM "MEET YOUR POLICY MAKER"
Panelist: 17th Commonwealth Legislature (Saipan Delegation)
Venue: Saipan World Resort
Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm
Note: To register call CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/ Seating is limited. Go to www.cnmicdd.org for more information.

Friday, April 9, 2010
FORUM "MEET YOUR POLICY MAKER"
Panel: 17th Commonwealth Legislature (Rota Delegation)
Venue: Rota Round House, Songsong Village
Time: 9:00am - 2:00pm
Note: To register call CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/ Seating is limited. Go to www.cnmicdd.org for more information.

FOR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS, please call CDD five (5) days in advance. Event is Sponsored by the following, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities; Assistive Technology Project in collaboration with NMC- UCEDD and NMPASI

2 women allegedly defraud RP bank of $109K

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government has charged a former co-owner of a remittance center and a former manager of another remittance center of defrauding a Philippine bank of more than $109,000.

The indictment charged Ana Maria Villadiego Villegas and Armilaine Salamat with one count of conspiracy, and two counts of wire fraud.

Villegas, also known as Anna Marie V. Villegas and Mary Ann, was taken to the U.S. District Court for the NMI for her initial appearance. Villegas, who appeared with counsel Mark A. Scoggins, pleaded not guilty.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Beverly McCallum represented the U.S. government.

Chief Judge Alex R. Munson set the jury trial for May 3 and temporarily freed Villegas on a $25,000 unsecured bond.

Salamat's initial court appearance was set for Tuesday as her counsel was not available yesterday.

According to the indictment, the scheme began in 2004 when Villegas, at that time a co-owner of Philippine Express Remittance, began passing checks drawn on insufficient funds at PNB Express.

PNB Express was then a subsidiary of the Philippine National Bank. At that time, Salamat was the manager of PNB Express.

Despite the eventual losses from Villegas' worthless checks, Salamat continued to allow Villegas to transact many worthless checks at PNB Express.

Salamat also transmitted directions by wire for Philippine National Bank to transfer funds into a foreign bank account, based on Villegas' worthless checks.

When all of Villegas' checks were processed, Philippine National Bank took a hit of about $109,855.33.

The indictment further alleges that after the Philippine National Bank lost over $109,000 from the fraudulent scheme, in October 2005 Villegas filed a voluntary petition in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the NMI.

In that petition, Villegas listed Philippine National Bank as a creditor. Until her petition was dismissed in January 2007, Villegas continued to pursue the bankruptcy case in an effort to discharge her debt to Philippine National Bank.

Leonardo M. Rapadas, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI, and Charlene B. Thornton, special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, disclosed in a statement issued yesterday that the charges resulted from an ongoing investigation conducted by the FBI with the assistance of the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

In October 2005, police arrested Villegas for theft and theft by deception for allegedly pocketing money from several people.

Some customers also complained that Villegas' remittance center failed to remit money to their intended recipients, mostly in the Philippines.

Kilili introduces legislation to study the feasibility of Rota National Park

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Responding to interest from Rota, U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) has introduced a bill that would require the Interior Department to study the "suitability and feasibility" of establishing a unit of the National Park System on Rota. The study is required by law before any National Park can be designated.

"Rota has so many unique cultural and environmental attributes," said Sablan. "And constituents have asked me to look at ways these areas can be protected and can contribute to Rota's goal of being a world-class ecotourism destination. Introducing this bill to authorize a study is the proper first step to fully analyze what people on Rota want and whether a National Park will help Rota develop."

The legislation lists the numerous features of Rota that make it a place that has the national significance required for a Park.

Of particular importance are what are described by archeologists as "the most numerous, most intact, and generally most unique prehistoric sites of any of the islands of the Mariana Archipelago." These include 4 sites already listed on the National Register of Historic Places: Monchon Latte Stone Village, Taga Latte Stone Quarry, Dugi Archeological Site, and the Chugai Pictograph Cave.

Vestiges of the Japanese era on Rota, such as the Kohatsu Kabushiki Kaisha Sugar Mill, are also already included on the National Register of Historic Places.

From a natural resources perspective it is the limestone forests of Rota and the rare plant and animal species there that distinguish the island.

Because Rota was spared much of the bombing and fighting of World War II the island environment remains much intact.

Once passed into law, Sablan's bill gives the Park Service 18 months to complete the suitability and feasibility study and report to Congress. The study would include public hearings and other opportunities for the people of Rota to consider whether they want a Park and what parts of the island should be included.

Following the report, it would still be up to Congress to pass a law creating a Rota National Park.

"There is still a lot to consider," says Sablan. "What are the benefits? Would a Park preserve areas for endangered species and free up other areas for development? What about questions of land ownership?

"I think the important thing is to give the people of Rota an opportunity to look at all sides of the idea over the next couple of years.

"After that, as their representative in Congress, it will be my responsibility to make sure that the people of Rota get what they decide is best for their island." ***(PR)***

Saipan lass graduates from WSU

PULLMAN, Wash.—Tiara Norita Evangelista of the Northern Mariana Islands has graduated from the Washington State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice.

Evangelista is a resident of Saipan and belongs to the batch of students who have earned undergraduate degrees for the fall 2009 semester. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.O. Box 502641 Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel. Nos.: (670) 664-3300 - 3302 • Fax: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL MEDIA SERVICES

MESSAGE: Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy Inos, through the Boart of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a **Parole and Revocation Hearing** is scheduled for **March 10, 2010 (Wednesday)** beginning at **9:00 a.m., and , if need be, to continue on March 11, 2010, (Thursday at 9:00 a.m.** at the **Vicente Taman Seman Building, Department of Corrections Briefing/Training Room**, Susupe, Saipan. The following items are included in the agenda:

I.	**Preliminary Matters**		
	1. Call to order		
	2. Roll call		
	3. Presence of Quorum		
II.	**Consent Items**		
	1. Adoption of Agenda		
	2. Adoption of Parole Hearing Minutes – September 16 & 17, 2009		
III.	**Parole Application**	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
	1. Jeffery P. Cabrera	09-002	06-0212(C)
	2. Eugene Repeki	09-010	00-0162(B)
	3. Arnel Guiterrez	09-016	07-0154(F)
	4. Quincy Oiterong	09-018	07-0116(B)
	5. Nickson Hartman	09-021	05-0344/08-0032
	6. Ricky Manahane	10-002	09-0054(B)/0138(A)
	7. Joseph M. Aldan	10-003	08-006
	8. David T. Diaz	10-005	01-381(E)
	9. Francisco F. Faisao	10-006	07-0107
IV.	**Parole Re-Application**	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
	1. Manuel K. Pangelinan	09-RA-001	88-0266/04-0213(D)
	2. Ignacio M. Leon Guerrero	09-RA-002	07-0100/0036
V.	**Revocation**	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
	1. Mark Wayne Torres	07-004	00-012(D)
VI.	**Miscellaneous**		
	1. Chun Shan XU	BOP No. 09-005	Cr. Cs. No. 02-0104
VII.	**Adjournment**		

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3304.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman , Board of Parole
February 22, 2010

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DOC-026

CLOSING DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2010 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"GUMA HUSTISIA AIR CONDITIONING RETROFIT"

COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - CNMI ARRA OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL WALKTHROUGH WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA ON THURSDAY, MARCH 18TH, 2010 BEGINNING AT 9:00AM.

THIS IS AN AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 PROJECT AND AS SUCH ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED MUST BE MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW.

/s/ MICHAEL ADA, Secretary of Commerce
/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN, Acting Secretary of DPW
/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN, Director, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DOC-027

CLOSING DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2010 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"SENATE CHAMBER AIR CONDITIONING RETROFIT"

COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - CNMI ARRA OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL WALKTHROUGH WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE HONORABLE JESUS P. MAFNAS MEMORIAL BUILDING ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17TH, 2010 BEGINNING AT 1:30PM.

THIS IS AN AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 PROJECT AND AS SUCH ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED MUST BE MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW.

/s/ MICHAEL ADA, Secretary of Commerce
/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN, Acting Secretary of DPW
/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN, Director, P&S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March. 1, 1999

Arrivals may post moderate increase

Despite the plunge in tourism economy, the Marianas Visitors Authority estimate visitor arrivals to reach 497,000 this year excluding the hundreds of US servicemen on board the Navy vessels who come here for a three-day rest and recreation. The estimate was based on the study conducted by board chairman Dave M. Sablan who estimated visitor arrivals to reach 353,937 with a conservative projected monthly increase ranging from 1.1 to 1.05 percent. In analyzing the arrivals record, Sablan took into consideration the load factor and monthly arrivals record of various airlines. Sablan also did not include the projected charter flights of Korean Airlines, Far Easter Airlines, arrivals of Japanese coming from Guam and the Northwest Airlines' plan to upgrade its carrier from a DC 10 to a B747 type of aircraft starting July.

Group formed to craft policies for territories

Senior Washington officials have convened leaders and delegates of island governments under US jurisdiction to put in motion President Clinton's plans to create an interagency body that will develop policies concerning territories. The establishment of a network of senior White House and Cabinet officials was brought up by Clinton during a visit to Guam in November to strengthen coordination between the four territories and federal agencies. Clinton hoped the creation of such mechanism "will ensure that your voices are heard in Washington, that you are treated fairly and sensitively by federal government, and that you are consulted before policies are made that affect your lives."

March. 1, 2000

Gov't moves to entice businesses to hire local workers

The CNMI government is laying the ground for a possible partnership with members of the business community through an incentive package, in fresh efforts to encourage increased participation of local workers in the private sector. A private sector employment incentive program is now being prepared by the House of Representatives, under which the government will share with the businesses the wages and salaries of local worker trainees in the school-to-employment program. The school-to-work employment program hopes to lure CNMI college and technical or vocational graduates into private sector jobs, thereby, reducing the Commonwealth's heavy dependence on foreign manpower.

MVA eyes transfer of Garapan Street Market to private sector

With the success and popularity of the Garapan Street Market, the Marianas Visitors Authority is now planning to slowly leave it to the hands of the private sector. MVA Board Chair Dave M. Sablan said it is time for the committee that organized the street market to take over the job so that the tourism office can concentrate on its promotional task. Organized late last year by members of the private sector to revive the ailing tourism industry, the night market held every Thursday has made Garapan a favorite place among residents.

March. 1, 2001

Amnesty for derelict taxpayers proposed

In an effort to recoup more than $30 million in unpaid taxes, House Floor Leader Rep. Oscar M. Babauta yesterday introduced a bill giving delinquent companies' debts a three-month reprieve from accumulating interest and penalty. The 90-day amnesty for delinquent taxpayers will give companies a chance to come out clean and the government an opportunity to collect badly-needed money, the lawmaker said. The collected taxes would go a long way in helping the government restart its economic development programs stalled because of lack of funding.

Tinian Dynasty says charter pact unlikely until airport project completion

Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino is not very optimistic about being able to strike a deal with any carrier this time, pending the completion of the multi-million dollar airport improvement project on the island. Hotel General Manager Tom Liu said Tinian Dynasty is not likely to cough up additional money to intensify its off-island promotions, especially when the company is hardly able to breakeven due to low guest haul and in the absence of better airport facilities.

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTISIA POT PRINIPONEN ATKILON TANU PUBLIKU

Segun i lai Publiku 15-2, Seksiona 106, i Depattamention Tanu Publiku ha notitisia todus ni intension para ma-atkilan tanu publiku gi Lower Base, Saipan. Libre i publiku muna` halom hafa hinassoña nu este na planu.

i. I tanu gaige gi Lot No. 038 E 02 ya i minedoñg 6,800 metru kuatdrau, poku mas o`menus. Guaha kopian este na lugat gi Depattamention Tanu para haye malagu umina.

ii. I para u fan atkila i Success International Corporation ni ineluluye as Señor Guo Jun Miao. Guiya lokue sekretariu yan treasurarion i kompania.

iii. I mapropopone na atkilon manegosiu as Señor Miao.

iv. I lugat para bisnis man-areglan kareta yan man-mueba tumobit 24 oras diariamente. I tetminon atkilon para 25 años na tiempu ya siña lokue ma-ekstende para otru 15 años. I tutat atkilon gaige gi pot sientu gi ma-katkula ni marehistra na kompanian man-ebaluan balin tanu.

v. I kopian kontratan atkilon gaige gi Depattamention Tanu gi Joeten Building, Dandan, Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luta; yan primet bibienda gi Kings Commercial Bldg. giya Tinian.

vi. I Depattamenton Tanu taya renisibiña kabales na propositu pot atkilon i lugat ni gaige guine na anunsiu.

vii. I Sekcretariun Depattamenton Tanu siña ha resibe nina halum publiku pot este priniponen atkilon, fabot `sino kinentra, antes `sino Måtso ida 8, 2010 gi katkuet offinan tanu giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONGOL REEL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) mellól alléghúl toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Teel faluwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiyegh, aweewe, reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap me bwal Alléghúl Toualp ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No 038 E 02, eyoor olangaras walabwughúw (6,800) square meters, elapeló ngáre eghús, elo Lower Base, Seipél. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuleey fischi.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Success International Corporation, CNMI Corporation. Samwoolul Corporation nge Guo Jun Miao.

Samwoolul Treasurer/Sekkeretoria nge Guo Jun Miao.

Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. Guo Jun Miao.

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe ayoora me mwóghutáágheli fasilidóód fengál me leliyel ffééról ghareeta. 24-hours reel towing service shop, me akkááw angaangal.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge ebwe reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years) me emmwel ebwe sóbwusóbw ngáli bwal seigh me limwoow ráágh (15 yrs)

Pomwol akkilon yeel llól alongal ráágh nge ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél falúw (value of the property) me bwal meeta kka e akkayú llól bwuleey yeel.

v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commerial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwo (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchuluyol.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipel.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng kkaal, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal Mááilap 8, 2010 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta me ngáre Tchúlúyól.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 038 E 02, containing an area of approximately 6,800 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Success International Corporation, a CNMI Corporation. The Director of the Corporation is Guo Jun Miao.

The President/Secretary/Treasurer of the Corporation is Guo Jun Miao.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Guo Jun Miao.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and managing a facility with a complete automobile repair shop, 24-hour towing service shop, and related operations.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before March 8, 2010 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

U.S. PROBATION OFFICE
DISTRICTS OF GUAM
AND THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Vacancy Announcement No: GUP 10-001

Position Title:	**U.S. Probation Officer**
Type of Appointment:	**Full-Time Permanent**
Classification Level:	Court Personnel System - Grade CL-26 to CL-28
Salary Range:	$38,331 to $63,119 (Salary commensurate with experience plus 20.94% COLA, which is subject to change)
Area of Consideration:	All Sources
Opening Date:	February 16, 2010
Closing Date:	March 5, 2010 (close of business - 5pm)
Location of Vacancy:	**Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**

Position Overview

The U.S. Probation Officer serves in the judiciary law enforcement position and assists in the administration of justice and promotes community safety, conducts investigations, supervises persons on probation, parole, supervised release, pre-release, and pretrial services, and interacts with collateral agencies to gather information, prepare reports, and present recommendations to the Court. The incumbent will work in the U.S. Probation Office, Saipan, District of the Northern Mariana Islands. Work is performed under the supervision of a U.S. Probation Officer Specialist and the Deputy Chief U.S. Probation Officer.

Within the first six months of employment, the incumbent will be required to participate in a six (6) week National Training Institute at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) program located in Charleston, South Carolina.

Representative Duties and Responsibilities (summarized)

1) Conduct investigations and prepare reports for the Court with recommendations, which requires interviewing offenders/defendants and their families, as well as collecting background data from various sources. An integral part of this process is the interpretation and application of policies and procedures, statutes, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedures, and may include U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, Monographs, and relevant case law; 2) Enforce court-ordered supervision conditions and implement supervision strategies; 3) Maintain personal contact with defendants and offenders; 4) Investigate employment, sources of income, lifestyle, and associates to assess risk and needs; 5) Address substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence, and similar problems and implement the necessary treatment or violation proceedings, through assessment, monitoring, and counseling; 6) Collect and conduct urinalysis tests of offenders/defendants following established procedures and protocols; 7) Maintain paper and computerized records of test results, including chain of custody of urinalysis testing materials; 8) Respond to judicial officer's request for information and advice; 9) Testify in court as to the basis for factual findings and (if warranted) guideline applications; 10) Maintain detailed written records of case activity; 11) Analyze financial documents and activities and take appropriate action.; 12) Interview victim(s) and provide victim impact statements to the court and ensure compliance with Mandatory Victims Restitution Act; 13) Conduct presentence investigations and respond to any objections, which may include resolving disputed issues and presenting unresolved issues to the Court for resolution; 14) Assess offenders'/defendants' level of risk and needs, and develop strategies for controlling and correcting risks; 15) Communicate with other organizations and persons (such as the U.S. Parole Commission, Bureau of Prisons, law enforcement, treatment agencies, and attorneys) concerning offenders'/defendants' behavior and conditions of supervision; 16) Identify and investigate violations and implement appropriate alternatives and sanctions, report violations of the conditions of supervision, and prepare written reports of violation matters and make recommendations for disposition; 17) Testify at court or parole hearings; 18) Knowledge of, and compliance with, the Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees and court confidentiality requirements; 19) Ability to consistently demonstrate sound ethics and judgment; 20) Participate in and contribute to on-going training programs, and have a working knowledge in outcome driven/evidence based practices; and 21) Perform other duties as assigned.

Important information regarding Applicant Requirements and Qualifications; Specialized Experience; Medical Requirements and Maximum Entry Age; and Medical Examination, Drug Screening, and Background Investigation is described in the complete announcement and is available at our website at http://www.gup.uscourts.gov.

Application Procedure

Qualified applicants must submit an original and four copies of each of the following: 1) letter of interest; 2) resume; 3) letters from three professional references; 4) letters from three personal references; and 5) a completed AO 78 (Application for Employment) to:

Vacancy Announcement GUP 10-001
Rossanna Villagomez-Aguon
Chief U.S. Probation Officer
U.S. Probation Office – Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands
Horiguchi Building, Rm.4D
P.O. Box 502089
Saipan, MP 96950
671-473-9201

The complete announcement and the AO 78 (Application for Employment) are available on our website at http://www.gup.uscourts.gov. Incomplete application documents will not be considered. The U.S. Probation Office reserves the right to amend or withdraw any announcement without written notice to applicants.

All application documents must be received at the U.S. Probation Office address above no later than Friday, March 5, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. Applications will not be accepted via email or facsimile. Untimely applications will not be considered. The most qualified applicants will be invited to, and must be physically present for, a personal interview. Travel expenses and relocation expenses will not be reimbursed. All application information will be subject to verification.

The U.S. Probation Office is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The legacy

Ten years ago, when President Bill Clinton announced his 2001 budget, he stood before a made-for-TV backdrop reading "America: Debt Free By 2013." No, that wasn't a joke.

Remember that months earlier Clinton had whipped out a magic marker in a Rose Garden ceremony and had written $115,000,000,000 on a large chart. That was the budget surplus for 1999.

Yes, a budget surplus. Only a decade ago.

Say what you will about Bill Clinton—and people still say plenty. But love him or loathe him, most people give him credit for working with Republicans and producing American's last surplus.

There won't be any such triumphant announcements from President Barack Obama, at least not soon. The federal debt will reach 85 percent of the nation's gross domestic product by 2018, and 100 percent of GDP by 2022, and double that by 2038, the Peterson-Pew Commission on Budget Reform recently projected. Before that happens, the commission said, the U.S. "would almost certainly experience a debt-driven crisis—something previously unfathomable in the world's largest economy."

That will be Obama's legacy. He won't be president in 2018. But he will be the president who drove us toward a debt crisis—or saved us from one. Right now, the smart money is on a crisis.

Last week, Obama announced a bipartisan commission that is supposed to figure out how to balance the federal budget by 2015, excluding interest on the national debt. (A big exclusion!)

It will be led by former Republican Sen. Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles, the White House chief of staff who helped broker the 1997 deficit reduction law under Clinton.

There will be 11 Democrats and 7 Republicans, and it will take 14 votes to approve any recommendations. So they will produce a powerful bipartisan consensus ... or dissolve into a puddle. Either way, they're supposed to report by December.

There is hope that this group will reprise the success of the bipartisan panel in the 1980s that rescued Social Security from imminent insolvency. That group, led by Alan Greenspan, reached a consensus on raising taxes and trimming benefits ... though it reportedly had a behind-the-scenes nudge from President Ronald Reagan and House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill

Different time, of course. Back then, Democrats and Republicans in Washington still talked to each other. And with a Republican president and Democratic speaker of the House, both parties had something at stake.

Democrats hold all the power now, and Republicans seem content to let them flail away with it. But nobody can afford to let this debt problem keep growing.

By 2014, payments on federal debt are project to be $516 billion, exceeding the spending on all domestic programs outside of entitlements and defense. By 2020, those interest payments will rival the cost of Medicare.

The greatest reason for pessimism: Even if Obama gets serious about federal debt, there are no signs that he can expect help from the Democratic or Republican leadership in Congress. There was scant support for a stronger White House proposal for a deficit commission that would have forced an up-or-down vote in Congress on the sum of its recommendations.

There's a chance for this if Obama puts as much time and effort into it as he has into health care. If he is willing to call out both parties for their failure to be responsible. If he is willing to bring in Republicans—not just Simpson, and not just at the very end—for a bipartisan agreement.

It's going to be his legacy, whether he likes it or not.

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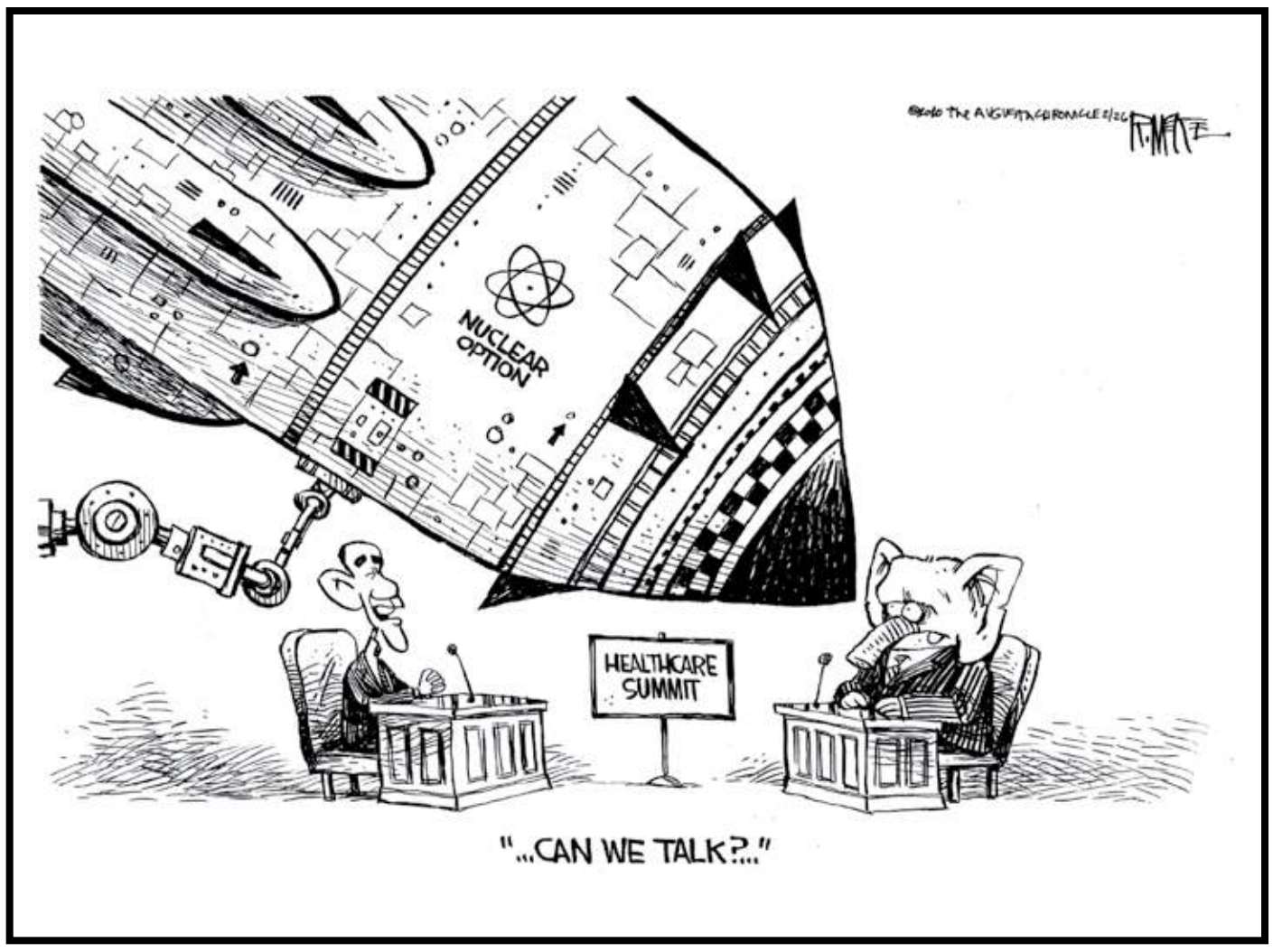


Who will lead us to greatness?

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

When studying the history of countries, we come to realize that a country's greatness comes from the determination of its people to succeed, led by a leader acting as a catalyst. As we page through history we notice many great men who turned their countries from poverty stricken ones to great prosperous ones. At the same time we read about great civilizations that have fallen from greatness to disaster because of a lack of leadership. Its people were left to wander in the wilderness. Its leaders had failed them. Today we in the CNMI are wandering in the wilderness searching for direction. Where and from whom shall it come?

I recall living in Japan from 1958 to 1974. While there I watched as that war--devastated nation struggled to regain its economic strength. Today Japan stands on an economic pinnacle. It was a great privilege and honor to have met several of its prime ministers of that time. They guided Japan back to greatness. I witnessed their determination to prod their people to prosperity through hard work. Behind all these great leaders was a responsive population willing to sacrifice and to work hard to achieve prosperity. They were determined to educate themselves to meet all challenges.

During this same period, I was also fortunate to watch Korea grow. I saw it rise from its ashes prodded by various outstanding leaders. Many times I visited Korea and walked among its ruins and talked with its people. I marveled at their strong will to recreate their country into a prosperous one again. Its people made education and industry their number one priority. Today South Korea is one of our leading tourist market clients and a world leader.

When studying the history of Singapore, we find it has no natural resources. It was a British colony from 1946 to 1959, when it became independent. It was left to fend for itself with no grants from any country, no food stamp program, no industry, and an almost illiterate population. It floated as a cast off island only 225 square miles in size. Today Singapore has become the fourth wealthiest nation in the world. As a result Singapore is a major economic power in Asia. It has one of the world's largest and busiest ports in the world and home to many major international companies. Have you ever flown on its excellent airline, Singapore Airlines? How did it accomplish all this under such handicaps? The method: *Its leaders worked hard to educate and train the people to become industrious and the people listened and followed!*

Lee Kuan Yee, former prime minister of Singapore, once stated in a speech: "Singapore's success was due to the ability and industry of our young people, willing and eager to learn, prepared to work hard and pay their way in the world, finding pride and pleasure in constructive endeavor. …There is no law in nature which provides that life will get better next year. We have to work hard to make it better."

Let's look at what has happened in the CNMI over the past 30 years. There has been a definite lack of long range planning by many of our past leaders. As our economy showed sprints of growth, they thought it would continue growing forever without any long range planning. As money flowed in from investors, the garment industry and the federal government, our leaders continued to squander any savings instead of hoarding it for when we might need it. Worst of all, they totally neglected educating the people to build and operate our own industries, preferring to bring in cheap nonresident labor.

Our lawmakers scared away many good potential investors by insisting on unreasonable demands and by passing unrealistic laws. At the same time they alienated our present businesses by neglecting their needs. Consider the garment industry that once contributed over $80 million in taxes annually. It also was exporting over $1 billion of goods per year. Our lawmakers felt that they could demand anything they wanted without retribution. We were on an economic roller coaster. But today this has all disappeared and we find ourselves in dire straits.

I used the word "lawmakers" in the above paragraph, but shouldn't it really be "we?" What did we do to prevent such a course of action? Did we speak up? Did we do anything to replace the loss of investors and a huge industry? The hardest part is to look inward at the "I" and say "I" am a part of what has happened but "I" did nothing or little to prevent it from happening. When are we going to stop blaming external forces and look inward for the causes of our dilemma? Have you ever noticed that when we point a finger at someone in blame, three or four fingers point back at us? Try it.

We are no longer a cute little Pacific island as has so often been mirrored in the movies. We are part of the world of nations and must take our rightful place among them. With modern technology the world is constantly in our living room as we are in theirs. We know about them and they know about us. Life has drastically changed. And we must change along with it.

I have learned from my business experience of over 46 years that whenever a company falls on hard times or goes bankrupt, 95 percent of the blame is caused by mismanagement. And only 5 percent is caused by external forces!

Until we stand up and take responsibility for our past and present actions, do away with our complacency and stop tolerating mismanagement, no effective change will occur. We must stop asking the federal and local governments for handouts. We must stand up and

See WHO on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Tsunami in my Lent

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

Saturday night after 9 pm, police cruisers were broadcasting along Beach Road in San Antonio and, unclear about the message, I inquired with the mom-and-pop store next to our Laundromat. That's when the integrity of news faded and the fear and trepidation of rumors reigned sovereign. A tsunami was expected at midnight and residents were heading to higher ground, "as advised by the authorities," I was told.

I called a colleague up in As Lito, and she already had a family seek refuge at her house after hearing a similar message. I had not yet heard of the Chile earthquake, or the one in the Ryukyus, but my geography-sense told me that a Chilean tremor would affect the windward side of the island, not the lagoonside. Vehicles were gassing up at the corner Mobil Station on the road to the airport at Chalan Kanoa. I needed to replace my 5-gallon water bottles anyway, so I moseyed over to our first floor confectionary, which was running a brisk sale on food and personal (e.g., cigarettes) items. Chinese parents with children and babies were already bundled up, and adequately supplied for an all-nighter at the airport.

That's when I decided to investigate. I called 911 for an hour but I could not get through. I went online to check the Internet traffic. The Chile threat to Hawaii had been canceled. The Ryukyus one did not materialize in Okinawa as anticipated. It was more than an hour later when 100.3FM aired a 911 DPS officer to clarify that we were under a tsunami *watch,* not a tsunami *warning.* The poor Chinese contingents from San Antonio and Chalan Kanoa had already left for higher grounds!

Five persons had just been sentenced to prison terms for posting notices in the Internet from Shanxi in China of anticipated earthquakes that had no basis in fact. Our police officers might have jumped the gun a little bit when they started alerting the public with messages about a tsunami watch. The limited English of majority of our population might have received the announcements, like the previous ones, to be a warning and thus the evacuation to perceived safety!

The fragility of human existence demonstrated by the Chilean and Ryukyan shakes is right down the alley on the metaphorical story inherited from my Christian heritage, the season of Lent. That story goes like this: We are born, and often just live our lives as slaves of our genes and memes, but once in a while, something happens that frees us from enslaving strangleholds, and we realize we can participate in deciding the course of our destiny. We then have the option to be ethically responsible not only for our personal fate but also of the future of our larger social network, and even that of the planet itself!

In Orthodox Christian tradition, clean Monday on Feb. 15 starts Lent when the faithful begin fasting, declare to themselves and to that to which or in whom they consider to be the Ground of their Being, their spiritual and secular intentions. The Catholic tradition begins with the sobering message of Ash Wednesday, that "from dust we came, and to dust we shall return," with the assurance of Jewish understanding that "the YHWH (the way life is) gives and the YHWH takes away, blessed be Yahweh's name." The Mardi Gras that precedes the season of sobriety has become a deadly yet animated bacchanalian discarding of caution to the wind, still colorfully and wonderfully observed in Rio de Janeiro, and before Katrina, in the Bayou. And the TGIF style of our lives!

The Christian liturgical calendar is a rendition of a life understanding that was spawned by the articulation of the teachings of a Jewish itinerant rabbi named Y'shua Ibn Nazareth (*Jesus* in Greco-Roman *GeoZeus*), according to his followers, particularly a former reactionary fanatic named Paul. That story has survived two millennia with many embellishments and permutations.

Lent in English means *spring.* Lent in the spiral cycle of the Christian liturgical calendar is the spring festival of life, the celebration that follows the dead of winter. Originally, the birth of Jesus coincided with what we now call Easter. April 4 this year is Easter Sunday, and in the narrative, churches will rehearse how life finally triumphs over the limiting confines of death, to the glorious promise of being born again, the resurrection, to then live gloriously no longer handicapped by the once perceived specter of the final terminé. No magic here, just the truth about life!

There are other stories from Mesopotamia in the same general tradition. Aug. 11 announces the start of Ramadan, 30 days of defying the reflexive rule of the flesh over the conscious yearnings of the spirit, the triumph of the will to live over the body's death wish. The Jewish Pesach-Passover includes the Seder Meal that is the occasion of Holy Thursday in the Christian calendar, and rehearsed as the Last Supper, and the Eucharist of the daily Mass. In the Hebraic understanding, the Pesach depicts the journey from slavery to freedom, rather central in that faith's story telling. Being born, dying to life's illusions, being born again, and completing the journey, is the old story of life. This imaginal journey became the paradigm for the Christian community's life, of advent, epiphany, death and resurrection, then *gloria* in *christo rei*, a journey pattern that also guides the individual's course and direction.

So in this season of Lent, the tsunami rumors came as both hilariously Mardi Gras-ish and soberly ash Wednesday-ly. In the 11 years of living on Saipan, the numerous tsunami "warnings" received had not noticeably raised the sea level by an inch, and by all accounts, there had never been a tsunami occurrence in our part of the tranquil sea. But this need not deter DPS from deriving meaning from the exercise. Sandy needs all the help he can get to polish the lackluster image of laidback incompetence among our finest in blue! (We won't go into the alleged collusion of some in activities on the other side of jaded legitimacy.)

Tsunami means "harbor waves." In this season of Lent, of reflection, meditation and contemplation, may the counter wave to living arrogantly from the certitude of our learned rationality be resurrected into trusting the innate power of our intuition and the gut-level energy of our intentions. May our reflexive harbors be called out of the living death of false safety in illusions and delusions, and live authentically in the serendipitous yet gracious resurrection of our mundane lives!

Chechu tramposu gi tanu natibu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John S. DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

Kada unu gai direchu sumañgan hinassoña pot maseha hafa na asuntu. Ennau na direchu ti siña un` ñega gi tautau. Lau atan hafa na attikulu para un` petsisige. Pot ihemplu, guaha fumabobot mapunu Attikulu Dose. Kontodu i tai

bisnis hasosoyu mapunu este na proteksion natibu.

Este na mañan tautau (kontodu tautauta mismu) mantai sensia sentimientun agradesimientu gi riku na tinatten frenten tanu natibu. Ti tanu ha` gaige guennau. Gi hilu este siha na islas `nai ma-establese ni man-guelota i guaguan na tradision yan kutturan natibu. Maseha un` lilie` cha`guan `sino troñkun hayu guennau na tanu, sagradu sa` deste antigu na tiempu man-mahafot te`lañg mañainata gi kada isla guine.

I antigu na mañainata masuñgun todu mattrata yan mattiron minamahlau pot presetabasion kutturan yan rasan Chamorro. Kontodu i tasi `nai man-pepeska para mantension, hagas propiadat natibu este. I dos lugat, deste tinituhun tautau guine, usun man-guelota gi maprebeniniyen mantension familian niha.

Huñgan, este na probision konstitusion gai finatsu sa` dos katigorian tautauta mandinisplanta. 1). Ayu i manaigue guine gi sinkuenta siha na sakan. 2). Ayu i tai haga` potlumenos 25 pot sientu Chamorro `sino Karolinas. Gi hinasoghu debi este na patte gi konstitusion u embrasa todus dimas ke hafa guaha pagu. Ti siña na patte gi este na attikulu u displanta petmanente i mismu tautauta siha. Taigue este gi kutturan natibu.

I rason na fitmeyu gi direchun natibu (ya hita solu siña man-akomprende pot asuntota) sa` makat para ginen hiyoñg para u kuekuentos pot propiadat natibu `nai tai bisnis dese tutuhon. I amiguhu Ambrose Bennett ha chaleguague` na i Attikulu Dose ha diskrimina otru sudadanon Amerikanu ni ti natibu. Ai, de dios sa` malefa na i kotten federat (Appellate Court) ha fatinas disision na propiu este na probision konstitusion iya Marianas pot proteksion tautauta.

Ya yangin malagu i prohimu gumai estau kumu natibu, yahu tumuñgu kau enfin, gai hagague` maseha dididi Chamorro `sino Karolinas. Dudayu kau u oppe na huñgan gai haga`gue natibu. Dispues, tai kuttura i tautauña siha giya Amerika. Ni leñguahe taya`! Ya para u kukuentos pot propiadat natibu guine? Guiya este na mañia i mafananaan` tramposu.

■ ■ ■

`Nai sige ma-atbansa siha i tautau isla gi enteru halom Pasifiku, mampos man-inestotba `nai maripara na kontodu siha mañasaunau ma-afuetsas finanaguen `nos kuantos nasion siha ni humatme tanu niha antes kontra kutturan tanu.

Mabira siha pagu ya siha mismu umatbabansa kustumbren yan kutturan tanu pot para umana` para i ti man-justisiau yan tai dignu siha na mattrata kontra tautau tanu. Estague un` sumen namagof na pinetsige gi para ta atbansa hafa sustansian natibu guine siha na islas.

■ ■ ■

I lancheru yan peskadot man-ginacha chinatsaga deste mapos na mes. I primet pot finatton tiempon maipe `nai añglu` i tanu ya mansineñge todus tinanom niha. I segundu man-tinetpe baban tasi yan guaifun `nai tai bali hiyuñg rubentasion.

Lau kulan sigklu este na pinadese gi kada sakan. I lancheru siha marikohe hafa ti dañosu na tinanum niha. I peskadot ha chule` guihan gi kahun ais ya matutuhon matala gi hilu fogun para usun familia. Gi todu atmos offisiu, sumen na humidde diariu na finapos niha yan fitme gi mantension familia. Estague na hinanau deste antigu na komunidat Chamorro.

Letter to the Editor

Move airfield to Tinian

Your North Field area would be ideal for the Marine Air Field from Okinawa. It wouldn't take up very much of your grazing lands.

The Marine Air base on Okinawa is so close to China that they wouldn't last 30 minutes or otherwise it's a sitting duck where it's located but Japan wants it there.

But even a bomber base located on Tinian would be a helluva lot better location than the one on Guam, where it's like what they did at Pearl Harbor in 1941—all their eggs in one basket.

That lease agreement for Tinian was signed in 1975 and the Navy and Department of Defense hasn't done a thing.

Don Swindle
via e-mail

WHO

From Page 10

scream: *Basta*! Enough! Let's correct ourselves!

We need to get out of our easy chairs and begin training ourselves to do hard manual labor. We must take back control of our economic life. We are citizens of our country. It belongs to us, not to others. And the only way we can keep it is to work it. Let's train ourselves to work hard. Again I quote Prime Minister Lee: *"There is no law in nature which provides that life will get better next year. We have to work for it."*

Our greatest asset is us—the people. Too long we have neglected ourselves and instead used substitutes to do our work. As a result we believe that the only work for us is to get a government job at any cost. Then we sacrifice our lives doing work that we hate and wait for a retirement pension. We are like a candle that burns hidden in a closet where no one sees or benefits from its light.

I can hear some of us saying: "Big deal. How are we going to help ourselves? It's so easy to say: Help ourselves. But how?" This is the first step to helping ourselves. We begin with a desire. The rest will come. Let's begin the education process and see what happens.

Stop whining that we have no money. Stop whining that we have no resources. Stop whining that we have no leaders. There are acres of diamonds under our feet. Let's pick them up and start polishing them. We have the leaders amongst us who can lead us. Let us seek them out and follow them into the new decade.

I call upon our leaders to motivate our people to want to succeed. Lead by examples. Show us that our future can only be built with our own two hands. All the talk with the United States and investors will benefit us little unless you unite us and show us that we must work hard to become prosperous. Let's do it! Time is of the essence.

Our greatest asset is our people. A nation of educated and motivated people can never go wrong. Let us start now to improve ourselves. As surely as the sun rises so will the prosperity of determined people rise. And as surely as the sun sets, so will the prosperity of indifferent and lazy people set. Those of you that aspire to be leaders, come forth and lead! The people are ready to follow!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲86° ▼74°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲82	▼74
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼76
Yap	Sunny	▲88	▼76
Chuuk	Sunny	▲88	▼80
Pohnpei	Sunny	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲87	▼75
Majuro	Rain	▲82	▼80

Around The Globe

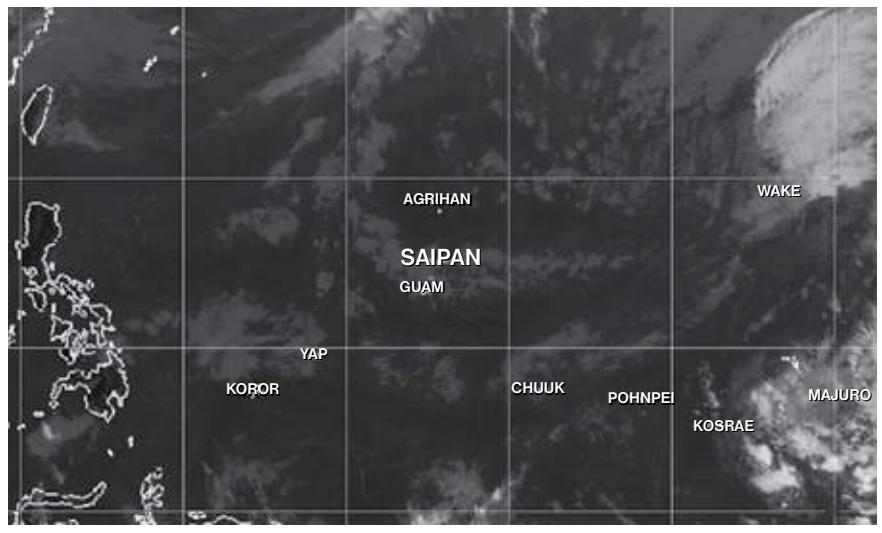
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼61
Beijing	Dreary	▲45	▼31
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲81	▼73
Honolulu	Showers	▲75	▼68
London	Partly Sunny	▲42	▼34
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲70	▼52
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼74
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼54
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲73	▼54
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲43	▼31
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲61	▼50
Paris	Cloudy	▲44	▼33
Pusan	Rain	▲65	▼40
Rome	Sunny	▲61	▼46
Salem	Cloudy	▲59	▼37
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲63	▼51
Seoul	Rain	▲52	▼29
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲59	▼56
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲47	▼32

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:59 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
8:21 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
2:26 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
8:04 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.2 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging winds south of a cold front north of Iwo To island are producing scattered showers over the island within 100 miles of a line from 18N140E to 25N141E. Another cold front enters the discussion are near 21N180 and extends westward to near Wake Island at 21N169E then continues west-southwestward as a shear line to Guam at 13N145E and turns northwestward to end at 18N140E. Extensive cloudiness with patchy rain and a few thunderstorms are found along and north of the cold front to beyond 25N. Scattered showers are seen along and up to 80 miles north of the shear line between 157E and 140E. Another shear line stretches southwestward from Wake Island at 19N167E to 10N160E then turns westward to end just west of Chuuk at 8N149E. Patchy clouds with light showers are found along and up to 70 miles northwest of the shear line between 165E and 149E. Upper-level divergence is enhancing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near the shear line over Wake Island within 60 miles of a line from 17N165E to 20N168E to 21N171E. Trade-wind convergence is combining with favorable upper winds to trigger widely scattered showers over Yap but north of Koror between 8N and 12N from 130E to 138E. Scattered showers are occurring over Kosrae, the Marshall islands and Butaritari Atoll between the equator and 9N from 162E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Tuesday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Wednesday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:59 PM	6:35 AM
Tuesday	7:58 PM	7:19 AM
Wednesday	8:57 PM	8:04 AM
Thursday	9:56 PM	8:49 AM
Friday	10:54 PM	9:37 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 24, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

DL638	8:00am	10:50am	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL638/288	8:00am	1:30pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
DL289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/703	3:20pm	10:55pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

DL639	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
DL298	10:10am	2:50pm	Daily
DL287/639	5:50pm	1:30+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL288	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CA: China Airlines; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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OPINION

Letters to the Editor

Educating a bully

Educating a bully to change presents a big challenge to teachers so one can only imagine the task I have with an adult. Just as it takes the intellect of the teacher to deal with bullies, it will take the same power and brute force of intellect and principles to deal with John DelRosario Jr. I wrote a simple letter about Article XII but I get jumped on. It's already clear as to who is really the perpetrator. Putting my name up in lights only serves to make the footprint that I have already made in the CNMI bigger.

John DelRosario Jr. didn't mention one word about a solution to Article XII in his last letter. He just attacked me. Both of his letters were pure diatribes. He jumped on me and I do have the right to defend myself with the same level of force.

He said, "We're not ready to roll out the carpet of alienation, dispossession, marginalization, landlessness, and total displacement of our people." Fact: The principles of America are designed to prevent these things from happening. Where did he get his education? It's obvious he got it backwards again.

His attack on my cultural knowledge was truly ugly but I am willing to bet real money that I have done a lot more than Mr. DelRosario has even thought about doing to help in the preservation of the indigenous cultures. I was recognized by both houses of our Legislature for the textbook on the Marianas I wrote. I conducted the first research in Mexico to determine the true origins of many indigenous social phenomena. I have created locally based resources specifically for the Marianas that schools are still purchasing today. I am the only one promoting a cultural curriculum—an intellectual and scientific approach to preserving and maintaining the culture for all time. I doubt that anyone knows of anything significant John has done to preserve the culture!

The selfishness, hard heart and prejudices John DelRosario Jr. is promoting are blinding him from seeing the truth and reality. The evolution of mankind hasn't stopped and the mixture of many different bloods with indigenous blood is the reality of the future.

He accused me of promoting hopelessness when it is truly hopeless to believe that Article XII is going to stand the test of time. I'm offering wisdom, not hopelessness, and intellectuals will recognize that fact. There have been much bigger issues of equality than Article XII in America's history that I alluded to like slavery and segregation but it all came to an end. There is nothing John DelRosario Jr. or anyone can do to stop the power and forces of justice and equality forever. Wisdom dictates that we must find common ground to survive the forces of change or face being overrun by federalization on land, which is imminent under the present conditions.

Bullies usually don't care about anyone but themselves. Case in point: The indigenous private landowners who want to sell their lots to fellow U. S. citizens who will pay $50,000 or more for the lot. Instead of being able to do so, the indigenous people are subjected to local speculators who take advantage of their own people by purchasing the same property for $5,000. Mr. DelRosario Jr obviously doesn't care about the local peoples' right to free enterprise, which is being violated by Article XII.

As for his question on Native Americans having special rights, they have those special rights because the lands were "taken" from them, unlike the CNMI which asked to become a part of America—it's a big difference. If he would have given me a chance, I would have told him that the indigenous people can still have special land rights. The challenge is how the indigenous people will share the right to own land in an equal manner. The solution is really simple but I don't want to overload Mr. John DelRosario Jr. I hope this has helped him realize that he must change or live out the remainder of his life with a mind that is stuck in the past.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Searching for a marble in the dark

Every time Mr. Ambrose Bennett appears in the print media, it makes the blood of the indigenous people of the CNMI boil. Mr. Bennett is forgetting that the indigenous people of these islands do have brains, and we do make this organ in our physiological makeup deal with cognition effectively. The indigenous people also have dedicated space in their brain physiology to deal with "meta cognition." Mr. Bennett should stop for a minute and reflect on "thinking," and "thinking of thinking" and direct his energy to the "cause of action" and the "course of action" the indigenous people have about their land, culture and language that were passed on by our ancestors.

If Mr. Bennett has a real argument of why the indigenous people of these islands should preserve, value, and honor their existence on these islands, then he failed in many points because we could not exactly see the premises and evidents that support his thinking and the consequences of his arguments. If we could pinpoint what he thinks about the rights of the indigenous people of the CNMI and know exactly what his point is, that would be a blessing. Otherwise, Mr. Bennett's view is like searching for a black marble in the middle of the night with the lights out, using a thick glove and blindfolded as he proceeds with his ordeal.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Guest workers, don't give up

I read about your unfaltering efforts to continue what we have started together. From a distance, I salute you for your persistence and bravery. Brother Rabby and Pareng Ronnie, I'm so proud of you. I believe in your competence to lead and I always knew that your hearts are in the right place. Continue to lead with a burning passion for what you stand for but respect those whose beliefs and opinions are different from ours.

Being gone for more than a year now, it feels like sailing away from an island; farther and farther everyday. The only memories that will remain vivid in my mind are from my last year there. I'm proud to have been part of you. It's been an honor serving and being part of one big family of guest workers. You are in my heart and prayers every day.

Don't give up and continue to lobby for improved status for all the guest workers on CNMI. Be proud of what you are doing and what you have accomplished so far. I hope that one day, I will have a chance to visit you.

God bless the CNMI guest workers!

Irene N. Tantiado
Savannakhet, Laos PDR

Seeking underprivileged households

We donate two school clothing packages each semester to the CNMI. The donation consists of pants, shirts, underwear, socks, and one pair of shoe. We are requesting for someone or for any organization in the CNMI to refer us names. We need names from the underprivileged households in Marianas for consideration for our donations. We will entertain any ethnicity in the CNMI and one of our previous recipients was a contract worker family.

JQ Castro
Secretary for Public Relation
Saipan Tinian Student Association
South Plains College (Texas)

LOCAL

DCCA childcare program opens for new applicants

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Childcare Program continues to do pre-eligibility assessments for new applicants under the ARRA funds. The pre-eligibility assessments will be done at the following locations:

Garapan Street Market on Thursdays, March 11 and 25, from 5:30pm to 8:30pm.

DCCA Child Care Program Office, ongoing Monday to Thursday, from 9am to 3pm, and Fridays, 9am to 12pm.

Parents and/or legal guardians who are interested in applying for the program must go through the pre-eligibility assessment and will need to bring the following:

Three (3) latest check stubs showing the applicant's name, hours worked (at least 60 hours biweekly), hourly rate, and gross monthly earnings (both parents) Most recent 1040 tax (both parents) School documents (class schedule, must be full time 12 credit) Training schedule (must have at least 60 training hours bi-weekly) Completed applications along with the required documents should be forwarded to the Child Care Program Office Capital Hill. All applications picked up at the Garapan Street Market will be due on or before Friday, March 31, 2010, at 12pm. Incomplete applications as well as applications turned in after this date and time will not be accepted.

Forward all applications to: DCCA Child Care Program Office Building No. 1347 Capital Hill, Saipan Office nos. 664-2575.

For this program opening, approved applications will be funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and is valid only until Sept. 30, 2010. ***(PR)***

REQUIREMENTS:

Applicant of Household

1. Check stubs for the most recent two pay periods for each parent or guardian
2. A copy of Identification Card for each parent or guardian (Passport, CNMI driver's license, Mayor's ID Card or entry permit)
3. A copy of your most recent 1040 Tax (each parent or guardian)
4. Residency: The applicant or guardian must be living in the CNMI

Provide one of the following documents

a. House Rental/ Mortgage
b. Utility Receipt
c. Telephone Receipt
d. Entry Permit

5. Employment verification
6. Child support statement/stub
7. Training/Education Verification and class schedules
8. If single parent/guardian in a household provide notarized affidavit

Child/Children Household member:

1. A copy of Birth Certificate for each child (Child must be a US citizen or a qualified alien, as defined in Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA)
2. A copy of US Passport
3. A copy of Social Security Card

NEWS BRIEFS

Curfew, minors consuming alcohol laws to be enforced

The Department of Public Safety's Crime Prevention Unit, in collaboration with the Attorney General's Office, Division of Youth Services' Juvenile Probation Unit, Criminal Justice Planning Agency, Community Guidance Center, and Alcohol Beverage Tobacco Control will be monitoring and enforcing the CNMI curfew law and underage drinking law.

This operation will commence effective immediately.

The purpose of the operation is to assess curfew violators and minors consuming any alcoholic beverages. This operation is intended to raise awareness of these programs among the youth, parents and community members. For more information, call 664-9023/ 483-9032. ***(PR)***

1120-CM form distribution starts tomorrow

The Division of Revenue and Taxation wishes to inform all CNMI Business that the distribution of the 2009 1120-CM forms and instructions will begin tomorrow, March 2, 2010, from 8am to 4pm, at the office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation located at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center. The 1120-CM form and supplemental instruction are also available online at www.cnmidof.net

All businesses are asked to pick up the forms during regular business hours. The deadline for filing the 2009 1120-CM form is Monday, March 15, 2010, at 4:30pm. ***(PR)***

2010 CNMI DD Awareness Month proclamation signing

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities will kick off the 2010 DD Awareness Month Celebration with a proclamation signing ceremony today, March 1, 2010, at 3:00pm, at the Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

This year's theme is "The Power of Cooperative Doing: The act of empowering others empowers you!"

The festivities will include presentations, trainings, and outreach activities to be conducted on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota throughout the month of March.

We are inviting all interested persons with disabilities and their families, consumers, stakeholders, and service providers to attend.

For more information, call 664-7000/1/2**.** ***(PR)***

MMAC committee meeting tomorrow

The 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer committee will be holding a meeting tomorrow, March 2, 2010, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa's Chambre Bar at 5:30pm.

All committee members are encouraged to attend as important information will be discussed. Interested members of the community are invited to join the battle against cancer by volunteering to assist in this worthy cause. For more information, contact 2010 overall MMAC chairwoman Janine Nogis at janine.nogis@gmail.com.

On Wednesday, March 3, 2010, there will be a 2010 MMAC team captains' meeting at the Hyatt Regency's Chamolinian Room, at 5:30pm. Team registration forms and fees are due on April 9, 2010. Teams that submit their fees will be allowed to choose their tent space on a first-come, first-serve basis. No reservations are allowed.

For luminary information, contact Catherine Attao at attao20@yahoo.com. For entertainment information, contact Jojo Camacho at jojo@marpacspn.com.

The 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held on Friday, May 14, 2010, at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. Email janine.nogis@gmail.com for more information. ***(PR)***

LOCAL

Coast Guard assesses Hawaii ports and re-open waterways

HONOLULU—U.S. Coast Guard crews completed port and waterways overflight assessments throughout the Main Hawaiian Islands and have found no significant damage as a result of the tsunami originating from the earthquake in Chile.

Coast Guard crews from Air Station Barbers Point conducted aerial assessments for potential persons in distress, port and waterway damage and pollution threats. Coast Guard boats and cutters, stationed out of Sand Island, also were underway during this threat to respond to any distress calls.

Capt. Barry Compagnoni, Captain of the Port, Honolulu, re-opened the Port of Honolulu to vessel traffic at about 2pm. Hundreds of vessels, including two cruise ships, remained off the south shore of Oahu during the port's closure.

"The Coast Guard appreciates the tremendous cooperation from the recreational and commercial boating community throughout Hawaii," said Capt. David Swatland, the 14th Coast Guard District's chief of response. "Hundreds of vessel owners proactively took the necessary and judicious steps to ensure the safety and security of their crews, their vessels and Hawaii's maritime transportation system."

"Coast Guard search and rescue planners worked extremely well today with their local, state and federal partners to ensure the safety and security of Hawaii's maritime community," said Compagnoni. "While our thoughts and prayers are with those devastated by this tragic earthquake, I'm extremely proud of the men and women who worked so diligently today to be astute guardians of the maritime environment." ***(USCG)***

Rota invites NMI to San Isidro Fiesta

San Isidro-Sainan Ina Pastor Monsignor Louis Antonelli, Fiesta chair Harold M. Manglona, Fiesta Committee, San Isidro-Sainan Ina Parish Council, and the people of Rota are inviting the public to "Bisita Luta" and join them celebrate and honor their patron saint, San Isidro, on March 20, 2010.

San Isidro known as the saint of farmers and is the patron saint for the village of Sinapalo, which used to be a farming area. It is now home to most of Rota's population and is subdivided into three villages: Sinapalo I, Sinapalo II, and Sinapalo III.

Late last year the 2010 Fiestan San Isidro Committee decided to try a unique and distinct approach in raising funds for the church. For the past years, king and queen candidates range in ages from 4-17. To give recognition and appreciation to Monsignor Antonelli who has served the island of Rota as its pastor for decades, the committee decided to solicit candidates between the ages of 50 and above "man'amkos" to compete for king and queen for this year's fiesta. Monsignor Antonelli has performed various religious services for families of this year's candidates.

"Monsignor Antonelli and the people of Rota are excited to see our man'amko don their best Sunday dress and be recognized for their long and unselfish contribution to our church and to our community as well. We ask our brothers and sisters in our neighboring islands to please help support our San Isidro-Sainan Ina Church by purchasing raffle tickets from our candidates," fiesta organizers said in a statement.

This year's candidates are:

King Candidates

- Adolfo (Rudy) Songao Calvo
- Pedro Reyes Manibusan
- Francisco Maratita Songao

Queen Candidates

- Rita (Songao) Toves Atalig
- Margarita (Charfauros) Lizama Maratita
- Rafaela Maratita Mesngon

The annual fiesta celebration highlights the annual fiesta and activities such as:

- Carnival Weekend that started on Feb. 12 and each weekend thereafter. It features entertainment, games of chance, food & drinks, souvenirs/keepsakes, etc.;
- Novena for San Isidro will start on March 12 and end on Fiesta Day, March 20;
- Coronation of the 2010 Fiestan San Isidro King & Queen on March 19; and
- Fiesta Day on March 20. It will feature a Mass and procession, fiesta dinner, entertainment, and drawing of raffle tickets. ***(PR)***

Guam's Camacho speaks to US Coral Reef Task Force

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho on Thursday addressed the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force at their 23rd annual meeting, and asked members to support the Guam Military Buildup Program with assistance in permitting certain projects and mitigation for the loss of resources affected by those projects. The task force was created by Presidential Executive Order in 1998 to coordinate federal government actions to better preserve and protect coral reef ecosystems.

Camacho last week submitted comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement to the U.S. Navy on behalf of the government of Guam. The governor expressed concern that the proposed dredging near Polaris Point will compromise the ocean's ecosystem in and around Apra Harbor.

"The environmental risks associated with the proposed dredging are great and there is a need to define processes and practices in working through compensatory mitigation on coral reefs," said Camacho. "I stressed to the Task Force the inherent need to form a working group, to include local expertise from Guahan and the CNMI, in developing interim guidance and long term standards for compensatory mitigation."

In a letter to the Joint Guam Program Office last week, Camacho wrote that any actions to remove corals indigenous to Guam, and relocate to another area near the island, would threaten and compromise sea life and ocean resources valuable to the expansion of the local economy and the continued expansion of inter-island commerce. He told Coral Reef Task Force members that a working group is critical in ensuring adequate local expert capacity is built.

"We are all striving to protect the environment and our nation, and we must work together to find a balance that will achieve both goals simultaneously," said Camacho.

Camacho also shared Guam's progress on the Micronesia Challenge and the local government's efforts to inform the public of the DEIS through the "Our Island, Our Lives" campaign. ***(PR)***

Marriage Encounter Weekend set

The CNMI's next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held on March 19-21, 2010, at the Saipan Grand Hotel. Cost is $50 per couple. For further information or a registration form, contact any of the below listed individuals:

Fall 2009 Weekend Coordinators

- Tom & Ericka Thornburgh
  -Phone no. 287-9205
  -E-mail address: tomthornburgh@gmail.com

Weekend Pillar & Fall Co-Coordinators

- John & Carol Hosono
  -Phone no. 286-4997
  -E-mail address: johnhosono@gmail.com

Spring 2010 Registration Couple

- John & Vicky Mafnas
  -Telephone no. 285-8454
  -E-mail address: vbmafnas@yahoo.com

You may also contact the Ecclesial Team/Executive Board members:

- Fr. Ike Ayuyu,
  a. Phone no. 234-8888, or
  b. E-mail address: ikeayuyu@gmail.com
- Vince & Hilma Castro
  a. Phone no. 287-8089, or
  b. E-mail address: hilmacastrome@gmail.com

Business

Obama to GOP on health care: Let's get this done

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama said Saturday he is ready to compromise with Republicans on health care if they are serious about it, but that an overhaul must go forward. "Let's get this done," he said.

Obama's comments in his weekly Internet and radio address, two days after an all-day bipartisan summit across from the White House, were the latest sign that Democrats are getting set to try to pass health care legislation without any Republicans on board.

Success will require colossal efforts on the part of Obama and Democratic leaders to round up votes after a year of corrosive debate and a Senate special-election upset that threw the overhaul effort into limbo last month. But Obama and the Democrats reject the piecemeal approach sought by Republicans and have no intention of scrapping their 10-year, $1 trillion bill and starting over, as the GOP demands.

"I am eager and willing to move forward with members of both parties on health care if the other side is serious about coming together to resolve our differences and get this done. But I also believe that we cannot lose the opportunity to meet this challenge," Obama said.

AP

President Barack Obama speaks to the media outside the Oval Office of the White House in Washington Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010.

"The tens of millions of men and women who cannot afford their health insurance cannot wait another generation for us to act. Small businesses cannot wait. Americans with pre-existing conditions cannot wait. State and federal budgets cannot sustain these rising costs.

"It is time for those of us in Washington to live up to our responsibilities to the American people and to future generations," Obama said.

Obama's legislation would insure some 30 million more Americans over 10 years with a new requirement for nearly everyone to carry insurance and would end insurance company practices such as denying coverage to people with medical problems. Republicans generally oppose mandates that make everyone get insurance, and although they want people with health conditions to be able to buy insurance, they would try to address the problem without new requirements on insurers.

Obama plans to release an updated proposal in the week ahead, likely on Wednesday, according to press secretary Robert Gibbs. Gibbs suggested it would include concepts put forward by Republicans at the summit. One attendee, Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., was contacted Friday by the White House and asked to submit details of suggestions he made to tackle waste and fraud in the medical system, Coburn's spokesman said.

Toyota's recalls unlikely to affect insurance premiums, experts say

By MARIA PANARITIS
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

PHILADELPHIA—As recalls and manufacturer defects continue to raise questions about Toyota vehicle safety, owners may worry that auto-insurance premiums may be affected, too.

Not necessarily, experts say.

Yes, insurance companies are closely monitoring the developments that led Toyota's chief global executive to testify before Congress this week. But experts say the ongoing drama may not result in either markedly higher, or lower, insurance premiums for Toyota owners.

There is still too little known about the true extent of problems afflicting the vehicles, including popular versions of the Camry, Lexus, and Prius. But so far, the reported problems appear statistically too small to yield massive changes in insurance premiums.

"I don't think it's that big of an issue from an auto-insurance perspective," said Michael R. Powers, professor of risk and insurance at Temple University's Fox School of Business.

Powers said rates might increase "only very slightly," but they could also be offset by declining resale values of some Toyota models as a result of the crisis.

In other words, it could cost a bit more to insure against accidents, while costing less to replace the vehicle in the event of a crash.

Full accident data about instances of unintended acceleration, braking problems, and floor mats remain unknown, and Toyota has not yet proclaimed a definitive resolution for all of the issues identified with some of its models, which means action from insurers would be premature, officials said.

"We, like everybody else, are looking very carefully at just how big the problem is, just how dangerous it is, just what the exposure is," said Sam Marshall, president of the Insurance Federation of Pennsylvania, an industry trade group.

No single factor determines insurance rates, but some vehicles are associated with a greater number of claims being filed and a greater dollar value of claims filed than others, according to data compiled by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS).

Toyota's president to visit China on Monday

TOKYO (AP)—Toyota says its president Akio Toyoda will speak to reporters in Beijing on Monday about the company's recent quality problems.

A company spokeswoman said Sunday that Toyoda, who testified at a U.S. Congressional hearing last week about the spate of global recalls plaguing Toyota Motor Corp., will be speaking at a Beijing hotel.

Toyoda

Toyoda was in Washington this past week meeting with Toyota dealers and facing questions from skeptical U.S. lawmakers over the company's recall of more than 8.5 million vehicles due to cases in which its vehicles sped out of control.

Nation

AP

Contractors remove snow from the roads around Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown, Pa., Friday, Feb. 26, 2010. More than a foot of snow fell in the area.

Thousands still lack power after Northeast storm

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—Frustration turned to resignation Saturday for hundreds of thousands of people in the Northeast struggling to survive another day waiting for utility crews to restore electricity after powerful storms socked the region with heavy snow, rain and hurricane-force winds.

The region was left to deal with the fallout of gusting winds that created near-blizzard conditions this week in what was the third strong storm this month for some areas. Parts of New York got more than 2 feet of snow while some areas of coastal New England were drenched with flooding rains.

One man was killed by a falling snow-laden tree branch in Central Park in New York City, and two people in Candia, N.H., died in a house fire caused by improperly using a propane heater to stay warm, fire officials said.

The highest wind reported from the storm was 91 mph off the coast of Portsmouth, N.H.—well above hurricane force of 74 mph. Gusts also hit 60 mph or more from the mountains of West Virginia to New York's Long Island and Massachusetts.

More than 1 million customers across the Northeast lost power because of the storm, and as of Saturday afternoon more than half of them were still without electricity. New Hampshire's electrical grid was the hardest hit, with more than a quarter-million customers still without power. New York had more than 160,000 outages and Maine about 67,000.

Some residents were warned they'll be without electricity for up to a week, as uprooted trees and fallen utility poles hindered utility crews.

Wash. teacher killed outside school before classes

TACOMA, Wash. (AP)—The stalking began with bursts of phone calls—10 or 15 in a day, about once a year, from an old college acquaintance. Then, flowers and unwanted visits, an anti-harassment order, an arrest—and bail.

Jennifer Paulson, a 30-year-old special education teacher at a Tacoma elementary school, knew she was in danger this week when her alleged stalker was released from the Pierce County Jail, three days after she had him arrested. She started staying away from her home in an attempt to avoid him.

It didn't work. When she showed up for work Friday morning, he was already there—and had been waiting for hours, according to reports neighbors gave police. Paulson was shot more than once as she walked into the school. Her body lay near the base of a large evergreen tree with blood seeping from her mouth.

A Pierce County sheriff's deputy tracked down the suspected killer, Jed R. Waits, 30, of Ellensburg, outside a daycare about 10 miles away and killed him in a shootout.

"She was a very kind, merciful, loving person," her father, Ken Paulson, said. "That's probably why she was a special education teacher—because she loved so much."

He described his daughter as a devout Christian, and said she had been pestered by Waits for years. The two had known each other since she was in college, when they worked together at a cafeteria at Seattle Pacific University.

ACROSS THE NATION

1 killed, 7 injured in dance team van crash in Va.

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A van carrying a Temple University dance team to a competition in North Carolina crashed in southern Virginia early Saturday, killing one student and injuring seven others, police said. Kammini Ragoopath, 21, of Lansdale, Pa., died after the van veered off Interstate 85 and hit a guardrail in Dinwiddie County, according to Virginia State Police. Manisha Modi, a passenger who said she broke part of her jaw and collarbone, called the crash "a freak accident." "There wasn't anything that was out of control or irresponsible," Modi, 19, said from the hospital. "There's no one to blame." The driver, Bilal Badruddin, 20, of Cranford, N.J., was charged with reckless driving.

Emotional orca show marks 1st since trainer killed

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Employees wept and audience members grew silent Saturday at SeaWorld as the theme park's popular killer whale show resumed with a photo montage memorial for a trainer who was killed by one of the orcas in front of horrified spectators three days ago. The show had been shut down since veteran trainer Dawn Brancheau, 40, died Wednesday after rubbing a 22-foot, 12,000-pound orca named Tilikum. The animal grabbed her ponytail and pulled her into the water in front of about 20 spectators. The medical examiner says she likely died of traumatic injuries and drowning. More than 2,000 people packed the park's stadium Saturday for the first show since Brancheau's death.

Officials: Pa. train double-fatal a suicide

NORWOOD, Pa. (AP)—Officials in Pennsylvania say two teenage girls who were struck and killed by a high-speed Amtrak train committed suicide. An Acela train traveling from Boston to Washington, D.C., hit the 10th-graders about 10:30 a.m. Thursday in Norwood, about 10 miles southwest of Philadelphia. The Delaware County Medical Examiner's Office said Saturday that autopsies concluded the deaths were suicides. Norwood Police Chief Mark DelVecchio says an examination of the girls' e-mail and text messages showed they spoke of their desire to end their lives. He said police did not know what led the girls to suicide. Family members and classmates at Interboro Senior High School said 16-year-old Gina Gentile and 15-year-old Vanessa Dorwart were upset about the death of Gentile's boyfriend. Seventeen-year-old William Bradley was killed by a car while riding his bicycle last month.

Texas board urges pardon in wrongful conviction

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP)—The Texas pardons and parole board has recommended clemency in the case of a man who died in prison after he was wrongly convicted of rape. The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal reported Saturday the recommendation in Tim Cole's case was forwarded to Gov. Rick Perry's office Friday. Perry spokeswoman Allison Castle tells The Associated Press that he looks forward to pardoning Cole. Cole's family has expressed relief over the recommendation. Cole died in 1999 at age 39. He was convicted of the 1985 rape of a Texas Tech University student in Lubbock. A 2008 DNA test cleared Cole and implicated convicted rapist Jerry Wayne Johnson, who confessed in several letters to court officials dating back to 1995. Cole would be the state's first posthumous pardon.

Study offers snapshot of 'millennials'

By DUAA ELDEIB
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO—Patrick Potulski sleeps with his BlackBerry—in hand.

If he isn't gripping the smartphone between his fingers, the slick bit of technology is resting on the pillow next to him. The first week he couldn't text while driving, he suffered "anxiety on the highway."

"It's sad. I know," said Potulski, 26, who checked his text messages three times during a 15-minute conversation.

It's also defining his generation, according to a Pew Research Center study released Tuesday.

Potulski, of Chicago, is one of about 50 million "millennials," characterized in the report as the generation of 18- to 29-year-olds who have come into adulthood in the new millennium. They tend to be more confident, liberal, upbeat and open-minded, the report found.

More surprising, they listed marriage and parenthood as their top priorities, far above career, financial success and being famous. But only one in five is married, half as many as their parents' generation at the same age.

The Pew Center called the 149-pagestudy—"Millennials: Confident. Connected. Open to Change"—the most ambitious examination to date of the age group. The study dubbed the young adults history's first "always connected" generation, treating phones and other shiny handheld devices like body parts.

Although most agreed that technology improves people's lives, about a third said it makes people more isolated and allows people to waste too much time. Eighteen percent said it makes life more complicated.

But this technology-savvy bunch knows a lot more than how to post a video of themselves online. The study puts them on track to become the most educated generation in the country's history.

That makes perfect sense to Nicole Kraut, a 22-year-old Loyola University nursing student from Cicero, Ill. She and her brother, 25, will be the first generation in their family to graduate college.

"We understand just how important an education is," she said.

The Millennial generation

The Pew Research Center surveyed 18- to 29-year-olds in an effort to define the latest American generation to come of age.

Generational names

Millennials	Generation X	Boomers	Silent
Ages 18-29	30-45	46-64	65+

Priorities
Percentage who say these are one of the most important things in their lives

Be a good parent	52%
Successful marriage	30
Help others	21
Own a home	20
Live a very religious life	15
High-paying job	15
Lots of free time	9
Become famous	1

Work and education

Work full time	41%
Work part time	24
Student	13
Not employed	22

Political identification

Democrat	Republican
54%	40%

Voted for Barack Obama in 2008 presidential election: 66%

Technology and social media
Multitasking and technology are ingrained in Millennials' lives; 83 percent have slept with a cell phone next to their bed

Sent text message while driving

Millennial	64%
Generation X	46
Boomer	21
Silent	1

Have social networking profile

Millennial	75%
Generation X	50
Boomer	30
Silent	6

Marital status at age 18-28 Millennials are less likely to be married than previous generations

Married | Separated or divorced | Single/never married

Millennial	Generation X	Boomer	Silent
21% / 75% / 4%	29% / 67% / 5%	42% / 52% / 6%	54% / 43% / 3%

Source: Pew Research Center survey of 2,020 adults, Jan. 14-27, 2010; margin of error: +/-3 percentage points for all, +/-4 percentage points for 830 Millennials; past Pew Research Center surveys were included in this study
Graphic: Alex Bordens, Chicago Tribune

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Asia

Tiny tsunami reaches Japan; damage to Pacific isles small

TOKYO (AP)—The first tsunami from an earthquake in Chile hit Japan's outlying islands on Sunday, but while the initial waves were small and most of the Pacific islands already in its path had been spared damage, officials warned a bigger surge could follow.

Japan's Meteorological Agency said the first wave to reach Japan after the magnitude 8.8 quake off Chile was recorded in the Ogasawara islands. It was just 4 inches (10 centimeters) high. Another, measuring about 12 inches (30 centimeters), was observed in Hokkaido, to the north. There were no reports of damage.

As it crossed the Pacific, the tsunami has dealt populated areas—including the U.S. state of Hawaii—just a glancing blow.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center already lifted its warning for every country but Russia and Japan, though some countries in Asia and the Pacific—including the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand—were keeping their own watches in place as a precaution.

The tsunami initially raised fears that the Pacific could fall victim to the type of killer waves that killed 230,000 people in the Indian Ocean in 2004 the morning after Christmas. During that disaster, there was little to no warning and much confusion about the impending waves.

Officials said the opposite occurred after the Chile quake: They overstated their predictions for the size of the waves and the threat.

"We expected the waves to be bigger in Hawaii, maybe about 50 percent bigger than they actually were," said Gerard Fryer, a geophysicist for the warning center. "We'll be looking at that."

But Japan, fearing the tsunami could gain force as it moved closer, put all of its eastern coastline on tsunami alert Sunday and ordered hundreds of thousands of residents in low-lying areas to seek higher ground as waves generated by the Chilean earthquake raced across the Pacific at hundreds of miles (kilometers) per hour.

Japan is particularly sensitive to the tsunami threat.

In July 1993 a tsunami triggered by a major earthquake off Japan's northern coast killed more than 200 people on the small island of Okushiri. A stronger quake near Chile in 1960 created a tsunami that killed about 140 people in Japan.

Towns along northern coasts issued evacuation orders to 400,000 residents, Japan's national broadcaster, NHK, said. NHK switched to emergency mode, broadcasting a map with the areas in most danger and repeatedly urging caution.

SUICIDE BLAST AP

Pakistani officials visit a police station attacked by an alleged suicide bomber in Karak, Pakistan on Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010. The attack killed four people and wounded about two dozen, underscoring the continuing security threat as the country's army battles militants. Also, a paramilitary commander said his forces had killed 25 militants in another area of the volatile frontier region. The blast on the police station in Karak in North West Frontier Province also toppled a mosque next door. Two police and two civilians were killed, and both police and civilians were among the wounded.

Suspected RP militant attack kills 11

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Suspected al-Qaida-linked militants raided a village in the southern Philippines early Saturday, killing 11 people in the country's worst militant attack on civilians in nine years.

Gunmen from the extremist Abu Sayyaf group backed by renegade Muslim separatist rebels fired grenade launchers and automatic rifles on houses while residents were asleep, killing one government-armed militiaman and 10 civilians in the village of Tubigan on Basilan Island, said deputy regional police commander Sonny David.

"The villagers were sleeping when the Abu Sayyaf came with their guns blazing. They spared no one, not even the children," David said.

The attack came in the wake of the recent killing of an Abu Sayyaf commander and the arrest of two key members. Government forces had been told to be on alert for reprisal attacks.

"It's a normal thing for them to retaliate," David said. "We're not lowering our guards, particularly at soft targets like markets, schools, churches, piers and public utility terminals."

Four children were among those killed, said armed forces spokesman Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner. He corrected an earlier report that the target of the attack was the village's militia detachment.

"They really attacked the villagers," he said.

One of the villagers, who are mostly citrus farmers, told police he was awakened by the sound of gunfire and saw blood oozing from his body, David said.

The gunmen strafed and torched at least 10 houses before escaping, David said. A 32-year-old woman and her 1-year-old daughter burned to death in their house, he said.

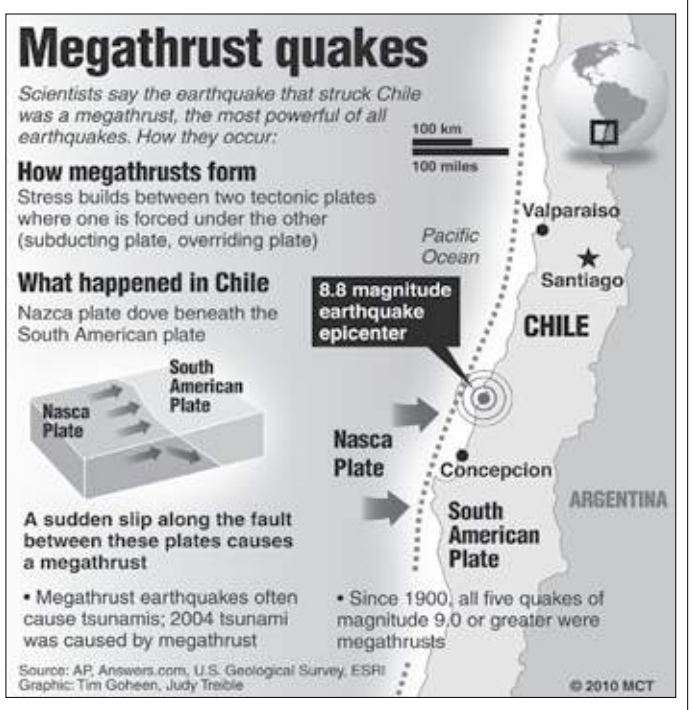
At least 11 who suffered burns and gunshot wounds were taken by boat to two hospitals in the nearby port city of Zamboanga, hospital staff said.

World

LIKE 2004 ASIAN QUAKE

Chile quake was in 'elite class'

By ALICIA CHANG
AP SCIENCE WRITER


Megathrust quakes
Scientists say the earthquake that struck Chile was a megathrust, the most powerful of all earthquakes. How they occur:
100 km
100 miles
How megathrusts form
Stress builds between two tectonic plates where one is forced under the other (subducting plate, overriding plate)
Pacific Ocean
Valparaiso
Santiago
CHILE
What happened in Chile
Nazca plate dove beneath the South American plate
8.8 magnitude earthquake epicenter
South American Plate
Nasca Plate
Nasca Plate
Concepcion
ARGENTINA
South American Plate
A sudden slip along the fault between these plates causes a megathrust
• Megathrust earthquakes often cause tsunamis; 2004 tsunami was caused by megathrust
• Since 1900, all five quakes of magnitude 9.0 or greater were megathrusts
Source: AP, Answers.com, U.S. Geological Survey, ESRI
Graphic: Tim Goheen, Judy Treible
© 2010 MCT

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The huge earthquake that struck off the coast of Chile belongs to an "elite class" of mega earthquakes, experts said, and is similar to the 2004 Indian Ocean temblor that triggered deadly tsunami waves.

The magnitude-8.8 quake was a type called a "megathrust," considered the most powerful earthquake on the planet. Megathrusts occur when one tectonic plate dives beneath another. Saturday's tremor unleashed about 50 gigatons of energy and broke about 340 miles of the fault zone, according to the U.S. Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Center.

The quake's epicenter was offshore and occurred about 140 miles north of the largest earthquake ever recorded—a magnitude-9.5 that killed about 1,600 people in Chile and scores of others in the Pacific in 1960.

"It's part of an elite class of giant earthquakes," said USGS geologist Brian Atwater.

If the magnitude holds, it will tie with the 1906 offshore Ecuador quake as the fifth largest since 1900.

"We call them great earthquakes. Everybody else calls them horrible," said USGS geophysicist Ken Hudnut. "There's only a few in this league."

The Chile quake was smaller than the Sumatra quake of 2004, a magnitude-9.1 and was not expected to be anything nearly as destructive. That quake and ensuing tsunami killed 230,000 people.

Another difference is that the Chile quake triggered tsunami warnings hours ahead of time in Hawaii and Pacific islands, allowing people time to flee to higher ground.

In 2004, there was little measuring technology in place to warn Indian Ocean countries about incoming killer waves.

More than 100 aftershocks measuring magnitude-5 or larger rattled Chile throughout the day. So far, the quake death toll has surpassed 300—a number that will likely rise. Several more died when tsunami waves swamped an island off the country's coast.

Chile is no stranger to violent jolts. In fact, USGS geophysicist Ross Stein called the country an "earthquake hatchery." Thirteen temblors of magnitude 7 or larger have hit Chile since 1973.

The latest quake took place at a boundary where two plates of the Earth's crust grind and dive. While that type of action gave rise to the Andes mountains that form the backbone of South America, it's also the source of some of the largest quakes.

The Chile temblor struck a day after a smaller earthquake shook the southern coast of Japan. Experts said the quakes appear to be unrelated.

There's also no connection between this quake and the disaster in Haiti, said University of Miami geology professor Tim Dixon.

A quake like the one that hit Haiti, a magnitude 7, happens somewhere in the world about every month, usually underwater. But the type that hit Chile is among the most powerful recorded in recent history.

The faults in Haiti and Chile are distant enough that stress from one would not affect the other, Dixon said.

Chile was ready for quake, Haiti wasn't

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—The earthquake in Chile was far stronger than the one that struck Haiti last month—yet the death toll in this Caribbean nation is magnitudes higher.

The reasons are simple.

Chile is wealthier and infinitely better prepared, with strict building codes, robust emergency response and a long history of handling seismic catastrophes. No living Haitian had experienced a quake at home when the Jan. 12 disaster crumbled their poorly constructed buildings.

And Chile was relatively lucky this time. Saturday's quake was centered offshore an estimated 21 miles (34 kilometers) underground in a relatively unpopulated area while Haiti's tectonic mayhem struck closer to the surface—about 8 miles (13 kilometers)—and right on the edge of Port-au-Prince, factors that increased its destructiveness.

"Earthquakes don't kill—they don't create damage—if there's nothing to damage," said Eric Calais, a Purdue University geophysicist studying the Haiti quake.

The U.S. Geological Survey says eight Haitian cities and towns—including this capital of 3 million—suffered "violent" to "extreme" shaking in last month's 7-magnitude quake, which Haiti's government estimates killed some 220,000 people. Chile's death toll was in the hundreds.

By contrast, no Chilean urban area suffered more than "severe" shaking—the third most serious level—Saturday in its 8.8-magnitude disaster, by USGS measure. The quake was centered 200 miles (325 kms) away from Chile's capital and largest city, Santiago.

In terms of energy released at the epicenter, the Chilean quake was 501 times stronger. But energy dissipates rather quickly as distances grow from epicenters—and the ground beneath Port-au-Prince is less stable by comparison and "shakes like jelly," says University of Miami geologist Tim Dixon.

Survivors of Haiti's quake described abject panic—much of it well-founded as buildings imploded around them. Many Haitians grabbed cement pillars only to watch them crumble in their hands. Haitians were not schooled in how to react—by sheltering under tables and door frames, and away from glass windows.

Chileans, on the other hand, have homes and offices built to ride out quakes, their steel skeletons designed to sway with seismic waves rather than resist them.

Focus

How diplomat's paperwork saved lives in Holocaust

By CLAUDIA TORRENS and RANDY HERSCHAFT
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

NEW YORK (AP)—It took Ina Polak 35 years to discover the dusty piece of paper that probably saved her and her family in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

It wasn't until she was cleaning her mother's New York City apartment following her death in 1980 that she discovered the document listing her, her sister and parents. It was a Salvadoran citizenship certificate.

"My first reaction was 'Oh, now I understand!'" said Polak, who is 87.

She and her family were Dutch Jews, with nothing to connect them with the distant Central American country of El Salvador. Yet the certificate dated 1944 became their lifeline, thanks to a man named George Mantello.

Mantello, a Jew born in what is now Romania, was one of a handful of diplomats who during World War II saved thousands of Jews and others on the run from the Nazis by giving them visas or citizenships, often without their governments' knowledge.

They were men such as Hiram Bingham IV, a U.S. consular official in Marseille, France who issued visas and other travel documents that are credited with helping to rescue about 2,000 people; or Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese envoy in Lithuania, thought to have saved 3,500; or Dr. Feng Shan Ho, the Chinese consul in Vienna whose visas got 18,000 Jews to safety in Shanghai.

Best known of all is Raoul Wallenberg of Sweden, whose efforts probably contributed to saving 90,000 Jewish lives in Hungary before he vanished in what became an abiding mystery of the Holocaust.

Now the work of Mantello is getting fresh attention as scholars dig into newly released files and piece together the lives he saved by gaming the diplomatic bureaucracy during the Holocaust—the murder of 6 million Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators in World War II.

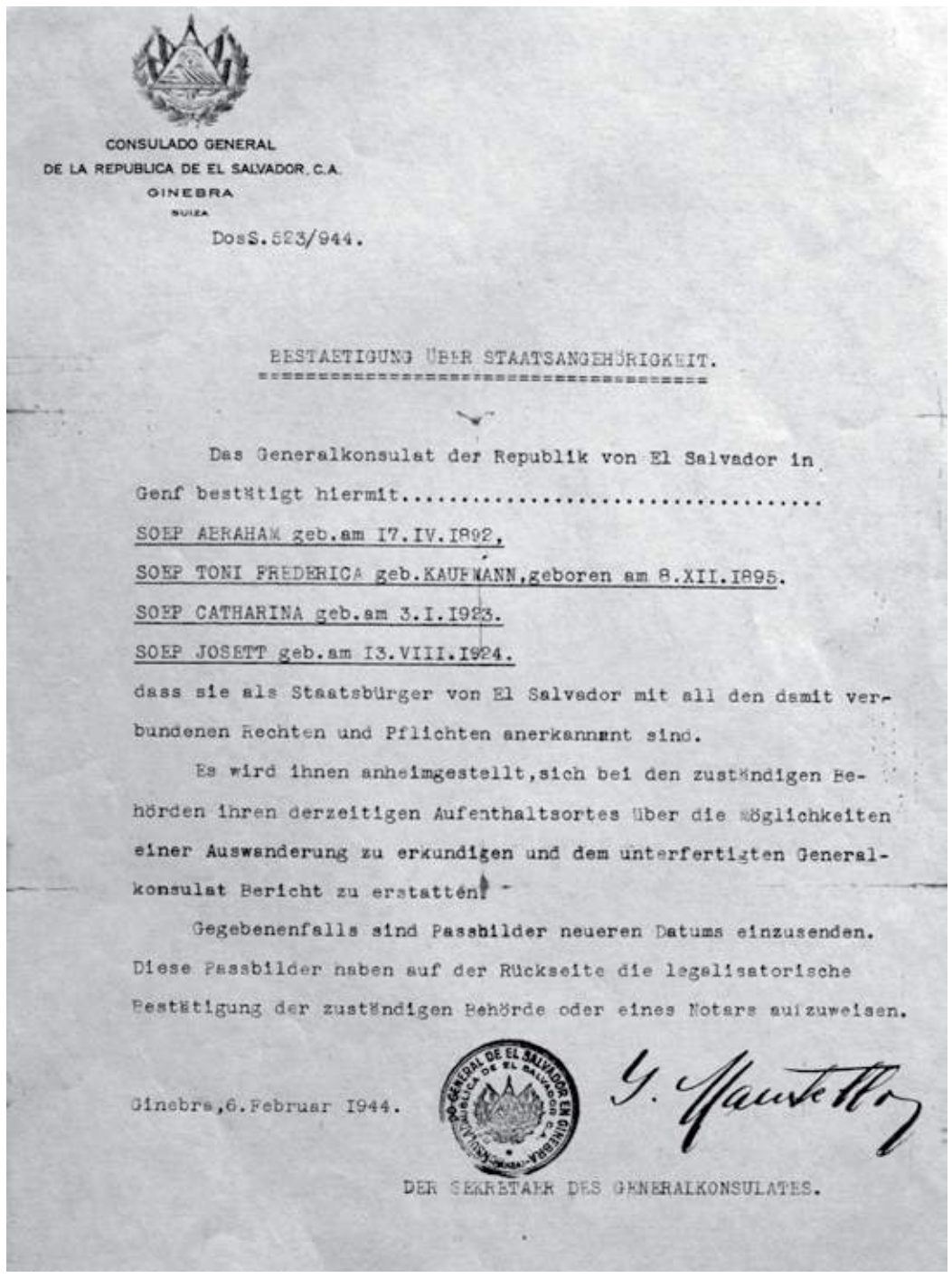
Working as first secretary in the Salvadoran consulate in Geneva, Switzerland, Mantello used a network of contacts to issue papers to Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe between 1942 and 1944 -up to 10,000 documents, according to his son, Enrico Mantello.

The same figure is given by the late historian David Kranzler in his 2000 book about the diplomat called "The Man who Stopped the Trains to Auschwitz." The book also describes Mantello's critical role in publicizing the so-called Auschwitz Protocol, a description of the Nazis' biggest death camp by two escaped inmates.

It is not known how many lives were saved by Mantello's documents—"definitely, hundreds," says Mordecai Paldiel, a Holocaust studies professor at Yeshiva University in New York. A letter from Carl Lutz, a Swiss diplomat who worked with Mantello, speaks of "thousands" saved.

Mantello sent out notarized copies of the certificates and kept the originals, more than 1,000 of which were found in a suitcase in a Geneva basement in 2005 and donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., by his son three years later.

Now museum researchers are trying to trace recipients of the certificates to get an idea of how



CONSULADO GENERAL
DE LA REPUBLICA DE EL SALVADOR, C.A.
GINEBRA
SUIZA

DosS.523/944.

BESTAETIGUNG UEBER STAATSANGEHÖRIGKEIT.

Das Generalkonsulat der Republik von El Salvador in Genf bestätigt hiermit.....

SOEP ABRAHAM geb.am I7.IV.I892,

SOEP TONI FREDERICA geb.KAUFMANN,geboren am 8.XII.I895.

SOEP CATHARINA geb.am 3.I.I923.

SOEP JOSETT geb.am I3.VIII.I924.

dass sie als Staatsbürger von El Salvador mit all den damit verbundenen Rechten und Pflichten anerkannmt sind.

Es wird ihnen anheimgestellt,sich bei den zuständigen Behörden ihren derzeitigen Aufenthaltsortes über die Möglichkeiten einer Auswanderung zu erkundigen und dem unterfertigten Generalkonsulat Bericht zu erstatten.

Gegebenenfalls sind Passbilder neueren Datums einzusenden. Diese Passbilder haben auf der Rückseite die legalisatorische Bestätigung der zuständigen Behörde oder eines Notars aufzuweisen.

Ginebra,6.Februar I944.

DER SEKRETAER DES GENERALKONSULATES.

AP

This Jan. 8, 2010 photo shows a copy of the Salvadoran citizenship certificate of the family of Ina Polak, whose maiden name was Catharina Soep, in Eastchester, N.Y. It took 35 years for Polak to discover that the Salvadoran citizenship certificate probably saved her from one of Nazi Germany's concentration camps.

Without the Salvadoran certificate, Polak and her family would likely have been worked to death in Bergen-Belsen or sent to other camps or the salt mines. Instead they were moved to a small camp enclosure full of Jews with Latin American documents, and finally put on a train out of Bergen-Belsen along with 2,400 people and were rescued by US troops in April 1945.

"Back then," Polak said, if a German official "saw a paper, and if it had the right stamp on it and the signature, then it was legal. People with these papers were eligible, in the Germans' eyes, to be sent to a neutral country, to a better camp."

many of them actually saved lives and learn the full scope of Mantello's rescue efforts. The citizenship certificates can be viewed on the museum Web site, http://bit.ly/at7GjV .

Judith Cohen, director of photo archives, says she has discovered how two Dutch families were released from Bergen-Belsen in January 1945 thanks to the documents, sent first to Switzerland and then to North Africa to be exchanged for German prisoners.

"We know that Salvadoran certificates actually helped pull someone out of the concentration camp and send them to freedom," said Cohen. While calling it "a very small footnote to history," she notes the Jewish saying that "he who saves just one person is like he who has saved the whole world."

In a speech last year, Cohen noted that "even when the rescue attempts were unsuccessful, the mere existence of the certificates proves that people cared for others and tried to extend help to friends under occupation to a greater extent than is commonly acknowledged."

And the areas targeted by the rescuers helps fill in another blank in Holocaust history by indicating "who knew what when" about what was going on under the Nazi thumb, she said.

After the war, Polak, who lives in Eastchester, New York, married a fellow survivor, Jaap Polak. She believes that maybe friends of her father gave Mantello the name of her family.

Her father, Abraham Soep, was a diamond manufacturer in Amsterdam, and probably received the citizenship certificate while the family were in a Dutch transit Nazi camp before being sent to Bergen-Belsen (the same camp where another girl from Holland, the diarist Anne Frank, perished).

Citizenship papers entitled their holders to sometimes wear their own clothes instead of prison uniforms and to live in a separate section of Bergen-Belsen.

The difference was critical, said Paul Shapiro, director of the Washington museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies. "Remember that if you were in the wrong part of the camp, you were dead."

While Wallenberg's activities were initiated and supported by his government, other diplomats acted against their countries' immigration policies or interpreted them "very, very, liberally," says Yeshiva University's Paldiel, who wrote a book titled "Diplomat Heroes of the Holocaust."

In her speech, Cohen said diplomats from Portugal and Romania, as well as representatives of the Vatican and the International Red Cross, helped spread Mantello's documents.

Those who made a sustained effort to save Jews numbered just "a few dozen" out of thousands of diplomats stationed in Europe, says Dr. Rafael Medoff, director of the David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies in Washington, D.C.

As a Jew, Mantello might himself have easily fallen victim to the Nazis. He had held honorary diplomatic positions for the El Salvador government starting in 1939, and had changed his name from Mandel to the more Spanish-sounding Mantello. But he was arrested by the Germans in Belgrade in 1942. He managed to escape to Geneva where he became first secretary of the Salvadoran consulate, and set about saving fellow Jews. Col. Jose Arturo Castellanos, the consul general, allowed him to issue the certificates, and only later did his government find out about it. El Salvador wasn't a neutral country at the time—it was backing the Allies, so Mantello had to use emissaries to distribute the certificates.

According to the Washington museum, copies of the certificates produced by Mantello and his team of Swiss volunteer clerks were sent to almost every country in occupied Europe—and even into Auschwitz—with varying degrees of success.

The Germans, for their part, had a use for Jewish prisoners with such documents—to trade for German nationals held in Latin America or the U.S., said Medoff.

"So even when the Germans suspected these documents might not be authentic, they often did not care because they considered these prisoners to be very useful," he said.

In January 1945, 800 Germans who had been held in the Americas were exchanged for 800 American and Latin American citizens in Germany, and among them were 149 Jews from Bergen-Belsen with Latin American documents, said Medoff.

Robert Fisch, a Minneapolis pediatrician, remembers seeing a citizenship certificate in his house in Budapest in 1944.

"My mother told me, even wrote, 'don't give out this paper. It is very important,'" said Fisch, now 84.

While his work on citizenship papers stayed discreet, his role in publicizing the Auschwitz Protocol led to Swiss public protests, prayers and angry headlines. The worldwide protests they stirred may have played a part in the Hungarian government's decision to suspend deportations of Jews to Auschwitz.

According to Paldiel, Mantello is insufficiently appreciated because he was an outsider of the Jewish organizations, a businessman who created his own network of volunteers and emissaries. After the war he had difficulty continuing his diplomatic career, and was accused of being financially corrupt, but charges were dropped after an investigation.

One man who appreciated his efforts—and said so in writing—was Lutz, the Swiss diplomat in Budapest who delivered many of Mantello's documents to Jews.

"You can be assured that ... you rendered a valuable service which will get you the thanks—as soon as normal conditions again prevail in this world—of thousands of human beings whose lives you saved," he wrote in a letter stored at the Washington museum.

Enrico Mantello, now 80 and living in Geneva and Rome, said he remembers his father issuing one certificate after the other.

"He was a very driving, energetic person. He needed very little sleep," he said. "He was passionate, he did not take no for an answer."

But after the war and until his death in 1992, Mantello was a haunted man.

Among those to whom he sent citizenship papers were his parents in what then was Hungary, but they arrived one or two days too late, and his mother and father, along with the rest of the Jews in their town, were sent to Auschwitz and murdered.

"It is a horrible, sad irony," said Cohen, the museum researcher. "The certificates were saving people all over Europe, and despite his efforts he was unable to save his own parents."

Health & Fitness

Whip yourself into shape with a rope workout

By VICKY HALLETT
(C) 2010, THE WASHINGTON POST

Everyone remembers the rope climb from gym class, but probably not too fondly. So you might not like what I'm about to tell you: It's time to grab a rope again.

Instead of dangling from the ceiling, however, this one's anchored to the ground, and your job is to grasp the other end and heave it up and down. It doesn't sound too challenging, but try telling that to your heart and lungs—not to mention your arms, shoulders, back, abs and legs—after a few seconds. They'd argue if they weren't so tired. Get ready for rope burn, because this combination of strength training and low-impact cardio is probably headed to a gym near you, if it's not there already.

If you want someone to blame, look to John Brookfield, a North Carolina-based strongman who's known for dragging trucks, ripping up decks of cards and bending nails. About five years ago, he was searching for a new feat and came up with the idea of creating continuous waves with ropes, which turned out to be a challenge even for him. "If you lift a weight, as it comes down, you can use momentum," he says. "With ropes, it's all pure output. There's no lull in the action."

There's no rest for a single muscle, either, as the whipping motion requires you to fight against your own power. Not only do you need to generate the energy to create ripples, you also need to stabilize your body or you'll topple over.

Brookfield found he could make the motion even more exhausting by using two ropes and dueling a fit friend who held on to the opposite ends. In this sport version, both players furiously lift and lower the ropes until one person releases enough power to snap the ropes out of the other's hands.

Whipped! is already one of the most popular classes at the Equinox fitness center in Tysons Corner, Va. The rope workout, a combination of strength training and low-impact cardio, was developed by North Carolina-based strongman John Brookfield.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Quickly, Brookfield noticed his rope experiments were boosting his performance in exercises from running to push-ups. So he gave his invention the name Battling Ropes, started presenting the product and soon got it into the hands of National Football League teams, Ultimate Fighting Championship fighters and Olympic athletes. And then folks like you and me.

Although the wave motion can challenge a fit athlete, anyone including children, seniors and people in wheelchairs can do it, as long as it's modified with smaller ropes, less intense waves or a slower pace. That's what drew Adam Wharton, the Washington area fitness director for Bally Total Fitness, to Brookfield's program a little over two years ago. "It can't be more intense than you can make it," says Wharton, who set about training his staff on the exercise.

At about the same time Brookfield was messing around with ropes in his back yard, Anthony DiLuglio, founder of the Punch Gym chain based in Rhode Island, had a chat with a friend about anxiety. The pal, a former Israeli Special Forces officer, recommended "undulating" objects, like they used to do with towels in the desert. DiLuglio gave it a try with hoses, chains and then the climbing ropes he had in the gym.

With that, he stumbled across the same benefits Brookfield had discovered and launched his own program, Ropes Gone Wild. "If people see you doing it, they can't wait to try it. They're looking at something that doesn't look hard. It looks fun," he says. So he's made Ropes Gone Wild the cornerstone of his Stop the Obesity program for schools while promoting it for adults in classes he's rolling out to gyms nationally.

Marvin Aronson, a trainer with the Washington-area chain Sport & Health, also came up with a rope-whipping regimen a few years back. When he worked at a farm, he would regularly lug ropes to pitch tents. He used that as inspiration to tone up personal training clients and soon added the moves to a circuit training class he developed called the Spartan Workout. Other stops include slamming sledgehammers into tires and dragging weighted bags across a basketball court. But Aronson says those ropes are special: "Even at 30 seconds, you get a great cardio effect."

When Lisa Wheeler developed Whipped!, a class incorporating ropes for the high-end national gym chain Equinox, she knew she'd have to limit students to short intervals. Still, "they see results," she says. "That's the best thing. They feel their heart rates going up."

So where will this rope climb lead? Wharton said he expects every gym will eventually have a few on hand, as they become staples like stability balls. And more people will be faster and stronger because of it.

Personal Trainer

Exercises for a painful back

Walking and water exercise are often recommended for people with back problems; these exercises may also help:

Warning: If your back hurts, consult a doctor before beginning any kind of exercise
Angry cat*
Arch your back like an angry cat for 5 seconds and release
Shoulder pull
Stand straight and pull back shoulders, military-style for 5 seconds, then release
Pelvis tilt
Tighten buttocks to flatten center of back against floor; hold 5 seconds and release
Two knee pull
Slowly lift knees one at a time to chest; touch forehead to knees for 5 seconds; reverse sequence and lower feet to floor
Hip kick*
Hold back straight while extending leg; hold for 5 seconds; alternate sides
*Should not be done by people with a ruptured disk or spondylolisthesis
© 2010 MCT
Graphic: Paul Trap
Half-situp
Raise head and shoulders, then lower; don't hold breath

Source: University of Washington Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine

Interval training can cut exercise hours sharply

LONDON (AP)—People who complain they have no time to exercise may soon need another excuse. Some experts say intense exercise sessions could help people squeeze an entire week's workout into less than an hour. Those regimens - also called interval training - were originally developed for Olympic athletes and thought to be too strenuous for normal people.

But in recent years, studies in older people and those with health problems suggest many more people might be able to handle it. If true, that could revolutionize how officials advise people to exercise - and save millions of people hours in the gym every week. It is also a smarter way to exercise, experts say.

"High-intensity interval training is twice as effective as normal exercise," said Jan Helgerud, an exercise expert at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. "This is like finding a new pill that works twice as well ... we should immediately throw out the old way of exercising."

Studies on intense training have been published in sports medicine journals and have largely been based on young, healthy people. Experts say more studies are needed on how older and less fit populations handle this type of exercise before it can be recommended more widely.

Intense interval training means working very hard for a few minutes, with rest periods between sets. Experts have mostly tested people running or biking, but other sports like rowing or swimming should also work.

Helgerud recommends people try four sessions lasting four minutes each, with three minutes of recovery time in between. Unless you're an elite athlete, it shouldn't be an all-out effort.

"You should be a little out of breath, but you shouldn't have the obvious feeling of exhaustion," Helgerud said.

In Britain and the U.S., officials recommend that people get about 2 1/2 hours each week of moderate exercise.

Life & Style

Thousands celebrate Australia's Gay Mardi Gras

SYDNEY (AP)—Thousands of people in lavish costumes and various states of undress danced and partied their way through Sydney's streets on Saturday, in Australia's annual Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade.

The parade—one of the world's largest and most flamboyant gay pride events—had 9,400 participants and 135 floats and featured the theme, "History of the World"—a look at gay history.

Hundreds of thousands of cheering spectators watched the procession, led this year by famed transsexual model Amanda Lepore. Her sparse attire, festooned with precision-cut crystals, left little to the imagination as she perched on an open-top Mercedes.

One reveler dressed as Osama bin Laden led a group of dancing "Binlettes," who sported pink sequins and improvised "mini-burkas," which only covered the head. Osama's right-hand man, who identified himself as "Greenie," said the bearded leader was here to terrorize the intolerant.

"It's about bringing back the gayness for Osama: Express the flesh!" Greenie said. "He's been in a cave for a long time. Bill Clinton couldn't do it, George Bush couldn't do it, Barack Obama doesn't want to do it ... but he's come out today for the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras here in Sydney."

"Michael Jackson's Thriller Zombie Marching Group" followed a hearse through the streets, which the director and producer of the float, Gareth Ernst, said was a parody of the celebrity death cult.

"Celebrities are like zombies," said Ernst, who was dressed as Joey Stefano, a 1980s porn star. "They die and come back stronger, more powerful and more popular."

Other dancers were decked out in full Lycra bodysuits, red devil halos and peacock feathers.

"I actually came out on a float," Ernst said. "My parents saw me kissing my boyfriend on television. Ten days later I had a call from my mum, who only said to me, 'We saw you on TV.'"

Spectators crowded the route of the parade through Australia's largest city. They held rainbow banners and Aussie flags aloft in the hot night air. Jewelry-covered dancers flaunted their frills for the crowd and twirled LED hula hoops with mesmeric variation.

AP

A participant takes part in the 33rd Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade in Sydney, Australia, Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010.

One spectator, Emma Rule, drove more than 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) from Melbourne to watch the parade for the first time, and spent more than six hours waiting on the sidelines for the festivities to begin.

"We've been here since 1:30 p.m.," she said excitedly. "But it was worth it ... we were looking forward to the Dykes on Bikes—they are always awesome."

Rule was referring to the famed Australian lesbian motorcycling group, which rode up and down the parade route on their bikes clad in leather, revving their engines and honking horns.

The parade began as a protest march in 1978 by homosexual and transsexual men and women.

Katrina Marton, head of events at Mardi Gras, said the parade had taken on special importance after a same-sex marriage bill was voted down in the Senate earlier this week.

"Under the glitz and glamour it's still a political march," she said.

Snowpocalypse to snowicane: Hype reigns in winter

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP)—The snowmenclature smackdown among meteorologists started with "snowmageddon" and "snowpocalypse." When the latest snow event—laden with flakes and whipped by heavy winds—headed for the storm-weary Northeast this week, the folks at AccuWeather Inc. warned of a coming "snowicane."

That did it for the more reserved National Weather Service, which accused the for-profit forecasters of overhyping to the point of inciting panic. The Weather Channel, an AccuWeather competitor, also took issue with the word.

As "snowicane" foreshadowed impending wind-and-snow doom Wednesday on AccuWeather's Web site, National Weather Service meteorologist Craig Evanego said the federal forecasters were taking a more measured approach, because the storm hadn't yet fully formed.

"It's almost inciting the public, inciting panic," Evanego said of AccuWeather's terminology.

His weather service colleague, meteorologist Roy Miller in Mount Holly, N.J., put it bluntly to The Morning Call newspaper in Allentown, Pa.

"It's not responsible to be putting out things like this," he said.

The newspaper called the brouhaha a "meteorologist smackdown."

Richard Grumm, the government service's chief science and operations officer in State College, said science and "getting people's attention and entertainment" each serve a purpose.

"Scientifically, I have my own opinion of what a hurricane is," he added. "The word, 'snowicane'—I have a glossary of meteorology, it doesn't exist."

A key meteorological measure of a hurricane is sustained winds of at least 74 mph. As this week's storm barreled into New England, it slung wind gusts into that range and higher—but those winds were not sustained. It therefore failed to achieve hurricane status.

It did, however, dump even more snow on a region digging out from the deepest cumulative snows ever recorded for a winter season and knocked out power to more than 1 million homes and businesses. The number of outages was cut nearly in half by midday Saturday.

Evan Myers, chief operations officer of AccuWeather, defended the choice of words but said his firm wasn't trying to panic anyone.

"I guess you can say that we stuck our necks out on this storm. ... Some people thought we were crazy, we were nuts, talking about the storm from this perspective," Myers said Friday from the floor of AccuWeather's high-tech operations center in State College.

"The storm performed as advertised," Myers said, noting, among other things, the coastal flooding from Maine to eastern Long Island and heavy snows in some areas.

AccuWeather's Web site on Saturday took up the "snowicane" defense: "Our concern was that the storm might be taken too lightly by the public if we stuck to the norm of calling the system a nor'easter, snowstorm, or even a blizzard."

It cited wind gusts of 90-plus mph off the New England coast.

By another measure, barometric pressure, the storm lived up to its billing, AccuWeather said. The storm's central pressure was as low as a category 2 hurricane, the Web site reported.

"We said it would have the characteristics of a (hurricane or tropical system), and in fact, it did," Myers said.

AP

People walking in the snow in downtown Syracuse, NY. Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010.

'Precious' wins big at 41st NAACP Image Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It was a winning night for "Precious" at the 41st NAACP Image Awards.

The heart-wrenching tale of an illiterate and abused teen who finds hope in a Harlem classroom was named outstanding motion picture and outstanding independent film at Friday's ceremony. Stars Mo'Nique and Gabourey Sidibe, screenwriter Geoffrey Fletcher and director Lee Daniels also won.

Daniels excitedly accepted the best-picture prize, surrounded by his cast and fellow producers.

"No one in Hollywood told me they wanted to see a movie about a 350-pound black woman with HIV," he said.

Sidibe objected, and Daniels corrected himself: "She's not 350 pounds. This was before you were hired."

The director twice told the orchestra to stop playing him off, but Daniels was ultimately cut off as gospel duo Mary Mary took the stage and the show came to a close.

Presented by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Image Awards honor diversity in the arts and outstanding achievements in film, television, music and literature.

Sidibe cried as she accepted the award for outstanding actress in a motion picture for her starring turn as Precious, the overweight, twice-pregnant teen who discovers her self-worth through reading and writing.

"It's so awesome to win! I love winning," said the Oscar nominee, who made her acting debut with this film. "I want to thank my God for ordering my steps, for everything that my life was and everything that it is now."

Fellow Oscar nominee Mo'Nique, who has swept the supporting actress prize throughout Hollywood's awards season for her moving turn as abusive mother Mary Jones, added another trophy to her collection with the Image Award for her role in "Precious."

"For all the Mary Joneses, I love you unconditionally, baby," she said. "For all the Preciouses, I love you unconditionally. Let's start loving each other again."

Other winners Friday included Keri Hilson, Maxwell, "Brothers" star Daryl "Chill" Mitchell and Chris Rock.

Hilson was named outstanding new artist, Maxwell won for male artist, Mitchell took the award for actor in a comedy series and Rock accepted the documentary award for his film "Good Hair."

Mitchell was moved to tears as he accepted his trophy.

"As long as you all got legs, I'm going to always walk," the wheelchair-bound actor said.

Rock said he wasn't prepared for his documentary win.

"I made this movie just for black people," he said. "I've seen a lot of documentaries, and I said I want the blackest movie of all time."

Ousted 'Idol' contestants swing back at judges

In this publicity image released by Fox, the 12 female finalists for the ninth season of the reality singing competition, "American Idol," seated from left, Katelyn Epperly, Lilly Scott, Ashley Rodriguez, Lacey Brown, Janell Wheeler, Haeley Vaughn and, standing from left, Didi Benami, Michelle Delamor, Katie Stevens, Crystal Bowersox, Paige Miles and Soibhan Magnus, are shown.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After dishing out tough criticism this week, the "American Idol" judges got some feedback from ousted contestants. Ashley Rodriguez, one of the first four singers voted off by viewers, chided the panel Friday for being hard on contestants during their first live shows.

"They were coming in throwing punches," she told a teleconference. "I wouldn't say they were too hard but we definitely could have used a little bit of love from them, that's for sure."

Rodriguez, 22, of Chelsea, Mass., said she stood by her performance of Leona Lewis' "Happy," which had been derided by judge Simon Cowell as "clumsy."

The departure of Rodriguez, Joe Munoz, 20, of Huntington Park, Calif.; Janell Wheeler, 24, of Tampa, Fla., and Tyler Grady, 20, of Nazareth, Pa., leaves 20 contestants on the hit Fox singing contest.

"American Idol" found itself outperformed by NBC's Winter Olympics, which drew more viewers than the Fox show for the second time in two weeks, according to preliminary Nielsen Co. ratings.

Going head-to-head at 8-9 p.m. EST Thursday, the Olympics drew 19.2 million viewers compared to 17.8 million for the results show of "Idol," which typically is lower-rated than performance episodes.

The ex-contestants said they don't intend to slip from sight.

"I will keep on trying and you will definitely hear more about me in the future," Munoz told the teleconference.

Grady, whose retro sound and look would fit neatly in a production of "Hair," said he doesn't regret his approach or his lament Thursday about a lack of "constructive criticism" from the four-judge panel.

"I was just expressing myself and I meant no disrespect and I'm not bitter at the judges. Seems kind of silly," Grady said in rebutting reports he said painted him inaccurately. DeGeneres' characterization of him as lacking honesty and charisma also was off base, he said.

Grady said he's sticking with his kind of music, mentioning his band's name so often that one reporter complimented him on his marketing skills.

"The name is Wailing Waters. Keep an eye out for us," Grady said.

An upbeat Wheeler said she was proud of her composure she learned she was out of the contest.

"If I had to go out, I'm glad I went out that way," said Wheeler.

She took time to compliment new judge Ellen DeGeneres for doing "a bang-up job for her first live show" and said she expected the contestants' performances to improve as they get used to a big stage and how they sound on it.

Stars rock out for Tibet at Carnegie Hall

NEW YORK (AP)—Patti Smith, Iggy Pop, Regina Spektor and many others contributed to a potent sonic cocktail that rocked Carnegie Hall at the 20th Annual Benefit Concert for Tibet House US, a non-profit organization charged with preserving Tibetan culture.

An avid fan of Tibetan art since his teen years, Pop said the world cannot afford to lose it.

"(Tibetans have) been getting kind of a bum deal for like 50, 60 years now ... sort of losing their spot on Earth," Pop said after Friday's concert.

Tibet is ruled by China, which insists Tibet has been part of its territory for four centuries and has governed the Himalayan region with an iron first since communist troops took control there in 1951. But many Tibetans say they were effectively independent for most of their history and say Chinese rule and economic exploitation are eroding their traditional Buddhist culture.

Tibetans have been fighting for greater autonomy for years led by the Dalai Lama, the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

Spektor, who was born in the former Soviet Union and later immigrated to the Bronx, said her familiarity with hardship makes her sensitive to the Tibetan people.

"I'm all about protecting people's heritage," she said. "Any place that is kind of in danger of losing their culture or being oppressed and not being able to practice their religion just feels to me very close.

Traditional chants by monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery opened the concert. A highlight was a performance by 15-year-old Tenzin Kunsel, a Tibetan refugee who moved to the United States in 2003. She performed a Tibetan aria, backed by the Patti Smith Band.

Leno returns to late night, but can he rule?

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The chin is coming back to late-night on NBC. So is the desk, the couch and, the network fervently hopes, the audience.

When Jay Leno reclaims "The Tonight Show" on Monday, NBC is banking that the ratings spiral that marked Conan O'Brien's brief tenure as host will quickly fade to a dim memory.

Leno

If viewers want to dwell on the messy dithering that led to this point—Leno moved to prime-time, NBC affiliates rebelling at his low ratings, O'Brien balking at NBC's directive that he and "Tonight" shift to midnight, O'Brien exiting and leaving a diminished audience behind—the network is focused on the end result.

With the Winter Olympics providing a big platform, NBC aired a promotional spot advising that "the chin" was back. Another spot had Leno breezing down a coastal highway in a snazzy convertible that shed the number "10" for "11:35." It cast him as a happy traveler headed home, back where he belongs, after a misadventure not even worth a postcard.

Lisa Howfield, general manager of NBC affiliate KVBC in Las Vegas, thinks Leno's fans will be right behind him.

"I suspect he'll get the same numbers (ratings) he had in prime-time, which are the same numbers he had in late-night. ... I think it's probably going to get right back into normal viewing patterns," Howfield said.

Media analyst Steve Sternberg agrees Leno should regain the late-night lead, which he held for most of his run, despite some observers' assertions that he ended up cast as the villain when O'Brien took a powder.

"I don't think Leno's image took much of a hit with his fans at all," said Sternberg. "That was more of a press and Conan fan-Twitter creation than anything else. Half of Leno's audience is over 55, a group that tends to be very loyal."

Leno averaged 5.2 million viewers nightly in his final season of "Tonight" before O'Brien took over last May, and was drawing virtually the same number—5.3 million—to his prime-time show.

Expectations were higher for the new show, however, because more people watch TV in prime-time, and affiliates complained loudly to NBC because their local newscasts were taking a viewership hit because of the weak lead-in. NBC eventually bowed to the pressure.

Aside from the Olympics spots, the network has taken a relatively low-key approach to Leno's comeback, especially compared to his splashy debut last fall with "The Jay Leno Show."

The comedian has declined interviews and NBC, which proudly toured reporters through the Burbank set built for Leno's new show, is keeping the now-revamped studio largely under wraps. It will include the time-honored desk-chair-couch setup, which was banished from prime time, and a new color scheme.

LA coroner: Anemia, meds left Murphy vulnerable

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Severe anemia left actress Brittany Murphy weakened and vulnerable to pneumonia and the prescription medications she was using to treat it, according to an autopsy report released Thursday.

The report stated Murphy's menstrual period contributed to her anemia and left her in a weakened state and vulnerable to infection. It also contributed the effects that a host of drugs, including hydrocodone and acetaminophen, had on the 32-year-old actress, according to the report.

Murphy

Coroner's officials had already concluded Murphy's death was accidental, but likely preventable. She died after collapsing in her Hollywood Hills home on Dec. 20.

The report notes that the medications found in Murphy's system were consistent with treatment of a cold or respiratory infection. Murphy's mother and husband had reported the actress was ill with flu-like symptoms in the days before her death.

An autopsy found no evidence that Murphy abused drugs. Investigators found numerous prescription medications in the actress' home, which she shared with her mother, Sharon, and husband, Simon Monjack.

The actress was taking anti-seizure medications and hydrocodone, the report said.

Murphy had been complaining of severe abdominal pain for seven to 10 days before her death. The report states her family thought it was a result of her menstrual period, which they told investigators was often severe.

The "Clueless" and "8 Mile" star had a doctor's appointment scheduled, but died before her appointment, Assistant Chief Coroner Ed Winter has said.

Attempts to reach Monjack or Sharon Murphy on Thursday were unsuccessful.

Gary Coleman suffers seizure on 'The Insider' set

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Gary Coleman suffered a seizure on the set of "The Insider" Friday and received immediate treatment from Dr. Drew Pinsky, who happened to be on set as well.

"The Insider" says on its Web site that Coleman was transported to a local hospital in stable condition.

A publicist for "The Insider" declined to say what the former child star was doing on the entertainment program and referred inquiries to the show's Web site.

Coleman walked off "The Insider" during a visit to the show earlier this month. He was being interviewed about his arrest in Utah last year on domestic violence charges when he blew up, telling the attorney questioning him to "drown herself in the ocean" before he stormed off the set.

Coleman was briefly hospitalized last month after suffering a seizure. He has had two failed kidney transplants and been plagued by various health problems.

The 42-year-old actor is best known for his stint on TV's "Diff'rent Strokes," which aired from 1978-86. Pinsky is a medical doctor and addiction specialist who stars on VH1's "Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew."

AP

In this Feb. 26, 2008 file photo, actor Gary Coleman appears on the the NBC "Today" program in New York.

Oprah helps chef fulfill Michelle Obama wish

AP

This Feb. 24, 2010 photo provided by Harpo Productions, Inc. shows Oprah Winfrey and Art Smith, in Chicago.

MIAMI (AP)—When TV talk show host Oprah Winfrey recently asked her former personal chef what he wanted for his 50th birthday, Art Smith's first thought was a new treadmill.

Aim higher, she told him.

How about a check to help fund the sort of healthy eating programs for children another of his high profile clients, first lady Michelle Obama, recently called for?

Done.

On Monday, during a party hosted by celebrity chef Nigella Lawson, Smith says he'll formally announce the $250,000 donation from Winfrey to his Common Threads nonprofit.

"We're going to educate a lot of children about taking care of themselves," Smith said during an interview late Friday at the South Beach Wine and Food Festival.

"I'd like to take this money to create healthy programs for children that mirror the first lady's program," said Smith, who recently lost 90 pounds (40 kilograms) thanks to his own healthy eating reforms.

Earlier this month, Michelle Obama announced her "Let's Move" campaign, an effort to teach children healthier eating habits and to get better foods into school lunch programs.

Smith's program runs more than 20 afterschool programs around the country. The programs teach children how to cook healthy, ethnically diverse foods.

'A Prophet' wins French film industry top prize

PARIS (AP)—The French film industry has showered honors on director Jacques Audiard's Oscar-nominated "Un Prophete" ("A Prophet"), giving the movie France's coveted Cesar award for best movie. Audiard was named best director and star Tahar Rahim best actor at Saturday's awards ceremony.

Isabelle Adjani received the best actress award for her role in "La journee de la jupe" ("The Day of the Skirt").

"A Prophet," which was nominated for an Oscar in the best foreign-language film category, collected nine awards in the annual French film industry competition. The movie won the second-place prize at last year's Cannes Film Festival.

The prison drama tells the story of an illiterate inmate who educates himself. During his six-year incarceration, he becomes involved in drug and smuggling circles. Rahim, a young Frenchman of North African origin, plays the film's main character, Malik.

Clint Eastwood's film "Grand Torino" won the Cesar for best foreign film.

Sacha Baron Cohen, Tina Fey help hand out Oscars

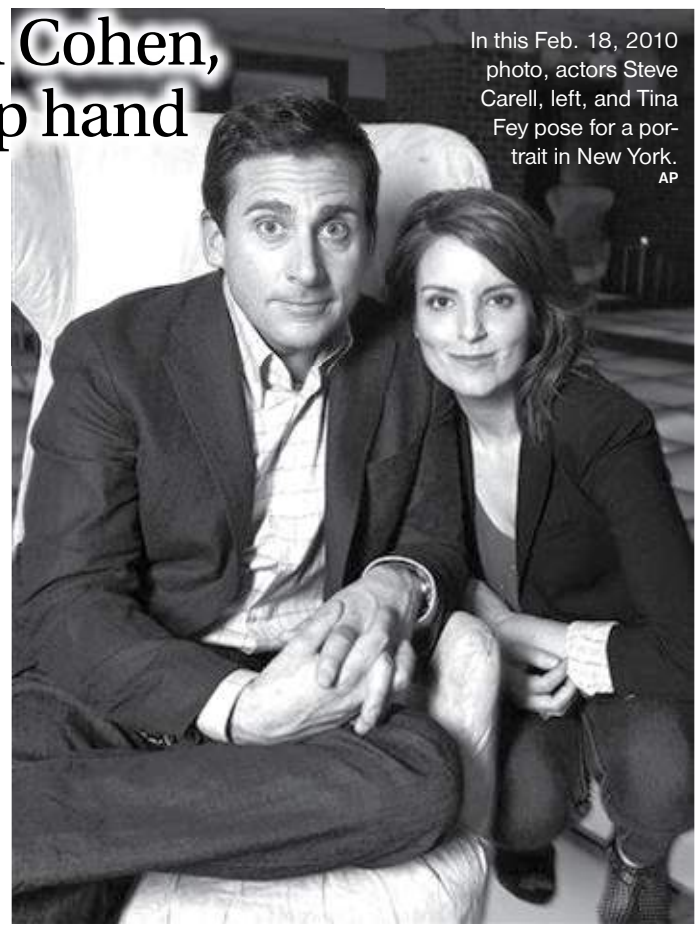
LOS ANGELES (AP)—At least five funny actors will help hand out Oscars this year.

Telecast producers say Sacha Baron Cohen, Jason Bateman, Steve Carell, Tina Fey and Ben Stiller will serve as presenters at the Academy Awards.

It will be the first Oscar appearances for "Borat" star Baron Cohen and Bateman, a star of best picture nominee "Up in the Air."

Previously announced presenters include Miley Cyrus, Zac Efron, Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner.

The 82nd Academy Awards will be presented March 7 at the Kodak Theatre and broadcast live on ABC. Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin will share hosting duties.



In this Feb. 18, 2010 photo, actors Steve Carell, left, and Tina Fey pose for a portrait in New York.

AP

Marie Osmond's son dies in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Marie Osmond's 18-year-old son Michael Blosil has died, the entertainer said Saturday.

Osmond said in a statement through her publicist that her family is devastated by the "tragic loss." She did not provide details on the death.

Entertainment Tonight reported on its Web site that Blosil jumped to his death Friday night from a downtown Los Angeles apartment building.

Officers responded to an apparent suicide jump in the area, but the victim was not identified Saturday, Los Angeles Police Officer Gregory Baek said.

"My family and I are devastated and in deep shock by the tragic loss of our dear Michael and ask that everyone respect our privacy during this difficult time," Osmond said in the statement.

Blosil reportedly left a note which referred to a lifelong battle with depression.

In 2007, Osmond said Michael was treated at a rehabilitation facility, but she didn't disclose the nature of his problem.

Donny Osmond, Blosil's uncle, told Entertainment Tonight: "Please pray for my sister and her family."

Michael is one of Osmond's five adopted children. She also has three other children from two marriages. She divorced Brian Blosil in 2007 after two decades of marriage. She and her first husband Stephen Craig divorced in 1985.

Osmond earned fame at age 13 with the hit song "Paper Roses," and starred with her brother, Donny, on television's "Donny and Marie Show" during the 1970s.

They perform a musical variety show regularly at the Flamingo Las Vegas Hotel and Casino. The hotel said Saturday's performance was canceled.

Free kidney screening helps put woman back in the pink

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: In March of last year, I saw your column about the upcoming World Kidney Day when the National Kidney Foundation would offer free screenings around the country through their Kidney Early Evaluation Program (KEEP). You encouraged your readers to find the location of their local KEEP screenings, so I did—figuring I had nothing to lose.

Well, my lab tests from the KEEP screening showed that my kidneys had not been properly filtering toxins from my body. Armed with those test results I made an appointment with my doctor. She had never checked my kidney function before. Once she saw the results of my kidney function tests were low, she suggested major diet and exercise changes and took me off two medications she suspected were too much for my kidneys to handle.

Today, I feel great. My blood pressure is normal, my weight is 30 pounds lighter and my kidney function is continually improving. What a blessing that I read your column that day, Abby, and went to the KEEP screening before it was too late. If I hadn't, I could be on dialysis, waiting for a kidney transplant or, worse, not here at all.

CAROL ANN JOHNSON, INDEPENDENCE, MO.

DEAR CAROL ANN: I am pleased that an item you saw in my column was so helpful. I hope your experience encourages other readers to look for the KEEP screenings in their local areas this year.

Readers, this year World Kidney Day is being held on Thursday, March 11. On that day the National Kidney Foundation will once again hold screenings all over the U.S. for those at risk. This includes anyone who has high blood pressure, diabetes or a family history of those conditions or kidney disease.

Those of you who would like more information regarding kidney disease and free screenings should log onto www.kidney.org.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I don't think I have a recessive personality, yet I constantly find myself in conversations with people who appear to have no interest in what I have to say. Regardless of the subject, I am never able to finish what I want to say before the other person interrupts with his/her own "more important" story.

An example: I said, "My mother-in-law came to visit last night ... " Before I could get the next word out, someone started talking about an incident she suffered through with her M-I-L. She continued on for more than five minutes.

Another time, during an hour-long lunch with a girlfriend, she spent 45 minutes (I timed her) talking about herself. And then there's my co-worker who spent seven minutes of a conference we had for a project we shared discussing the project, and the rest talking about herself.

Am I expecting too much to be heard, respected, empathized with and supported by people I consider close friends and associates? What can I do to remedy this?

LET ME FINI ...

DEAR LET ME: Your problem is that you are not assertive enough. A way to remedy the situation would be to interrupt the interrupter by saying immediately, "Excuse me -- I am still talking," and finish your story. And as to a colleague blathering on about herself during the discussion that was supposed to be about your project -- you should have said, "Oh, I'd love to chat. But right now I have too much work to do. Bye!"

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

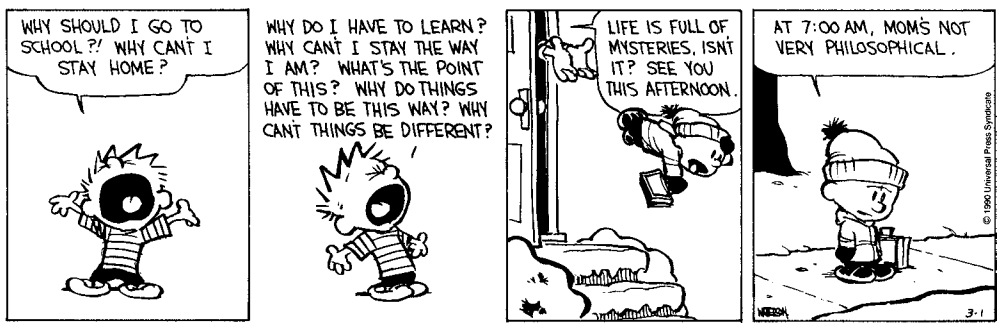
■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHY SHOULD I GO TO SCHOOL?! WHY CAN'T I STAY HOME?
WHY DO I HAVE TO LEARN? WHY CAN'T I STAY THE WAY I AM? WHAT'S THE POINT OF THIS? WHY DO THINGS HAVE TO BE THIS WAY? WHY CAN'T THINGS BE DIFFERENT?
LIFE IS FULL OF MYSTERIES, ISN'T IT? SEE YOU THIS AFTERNOON.
AT 7:00 AM, MOM'S NOT VERY PHILOSOPHICAL.
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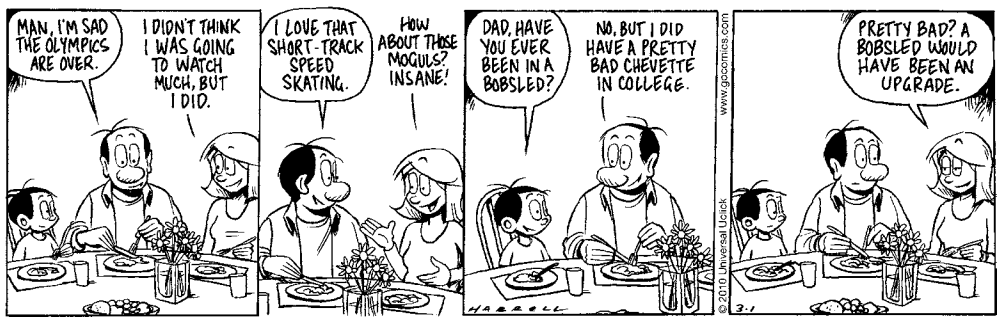
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


MAN, I'M SAD THE OLYMPICS ARE OVER.
I DIDN'T THINK I WAS GOING TO WATCH MUCH, BUT I DID.
I LOVE THAT SHORT-TRACK SPEED SKATING.
HOW ABOUT THOSE MOGULS? INSANE!
DAD, HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN A BOBSLED?
NO, BUT I DID HAVE A PRETTY BAD CHEVETTE IN COLLEGE.
PRETTY BAD? A BOBSLED WOULD HAVE BEEN AN UPGRADE.
www.gocomics.com
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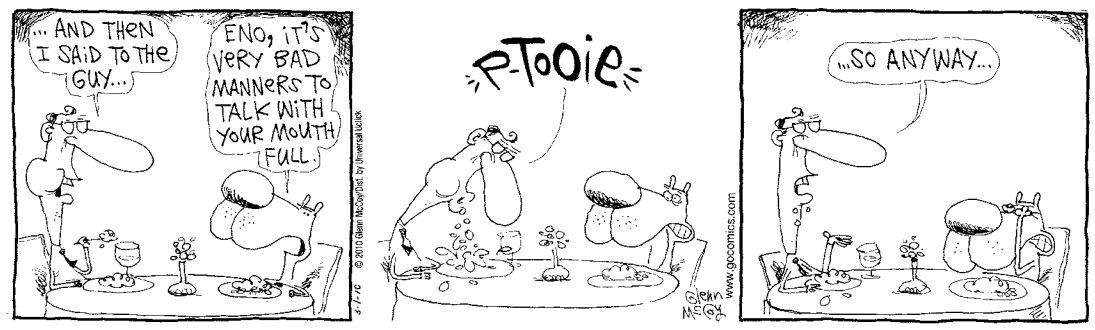
3-1

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


... AND THEN I SAID TO THE GUY...
ENO, IT'S VERY BAD MANNERS TO TALK WITH YOUR MOUTH FULL.
© 2010 Glenn McCoy Dist. by Universal Uclick
P-TOOIE
...SO ANYWAY...
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

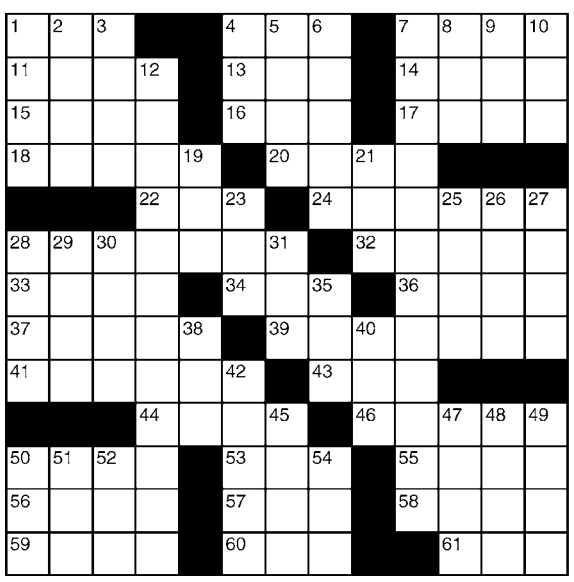
ACROSS
1 Attorneys' org.
4 Faux —
7 Frizzy hairdo
11 Old Italian money
13 Illustrations
14 Cattle rancher's device
15 Suitcase
16 Kids' card game
17 Frogs' hangout
18 Rework
20 Loutish one
22 Fish eggs
24 Not tardy
28 Rocket launcher
32 Banish
33 Vicinity
34 Recede
36 Persia, now
37 Alder or hazel
39 Remark
41 Island greetings
43 Bikini half
44 MasterCard alternative
46 Wields a teaspoon
50 Mary's follower
53 Paid player
55 Fix a manuscript
56 "American —"
57 Author Fleming
58 Say it isn't so
59 Nitwit
60 Nay undoer
61 Get older

DOWN
1 Seaweed, e.g.
2 Shuttlecock
3 Met melody
4 Dog's foot
5 Speedy steed
6 Razor sharpener
7 Came close to
8 To and —
9 Texas politico Paul
10 Peculiar
12 Easy to meet or deal with
19 As well
21 Raw rock
23 — out a living
25 Swampy terrain
26 Blueprint
27 Bivouac shelter
28 Rum cake
29 Seed coat
30 Nil
31 1970 Jackson 5 hit
35 Go up and down
38 Scenery chewer
40 "— Miniver"
42 Old photograph color
45 Picture of health?
47 Concept
48 Boxing venue
49 Eyelid woe
50 Cover
51 Commotion
52 Swabbie's prop
54 Washington's bill

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	G	R	U	B	S	■	P	A	U	L	A	■
S	O	U	R	L	Y	■	A	S	L	A	N	T
L	E	N	N	O	N	■	R	I	T	T	E	R
I	T	S	■	C	O	C	O	A	■	E	M	U
C	H	U	M	■	D	A	L	■	C	E	I	L
K	E	P	I	S	■	R	E	G	E	N	C	Y
■	■	■	D	I	M	■	E	E	L	■	■	■
A	P	P	A	R	E	L	■	M	E	T	R	O
B	O	A	S	■	L	A	C	■	B	R	E	D
O	N	E	■	H	A	V	E	N	■	I	T	O
M	I	L	T	O	N	■	D	E	N	V	E	R
B	E	L	O	N	G	■	A	V	A	I	L	S
■	S	A	R	G	E	■	R	E	N	A	L	■

Saturday's answer 3-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Justin Bieber, 16; Jensen Ackles, 32; Ron Howard, 56; Alan Thicke, 63

Happy Birthday: Take your time and pay attention to every little detail. There will be plenty of opportunities—the trick will be to pick the ones best for you. Personal and business partnerships are favored and will be enhanced by what you both have to bring to the table. You can win any power struggle by being relentless but fair. Your numbers are 2, 5, 9, 22, 30, 43, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Sit back and watch what others do. Once you have all the facts and figures, you can make a decision. An emotional issue regarding work will remind you of a past experience. Learn from your mistakes. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll have plenty of choices but not enough time to take advantage of what's being offered. You can turn a negative into a positive if you don't spread yourself too thin. A little romance late in the day will confirm that you made the right decision. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Problems when working with groups or dealing with people who want to take advantage of your talents will leave you feeling jaded. Instead, do your own thing. Someone is likely to meddle in your affairs if you share your thoughts and concerns. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Express your feelings and you will be able to solve a personal problem that has been bothering you for some time. A change of plans will give you an opportunity to do things differently. Make the first move. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Hold your ground and refuse to budge if you feel you are being taken for granted. A change of plans or the way you feel about someone is evident. Act accordingly and you can clear up a matter you have been tolerating for someone else's sake. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Too much, too soon will be the problem. Taking on responsibilities that don't belong to you or getting involved in a money matter you cannot afford must be avoided. Keep your life as simple as possible. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Keep your ideas a secret for now. Someone will meddle in your affairs if you share your thoughts. Focus on socializing with creative people and listening to what they have to say and you will be the one to benefit. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Greater discipline will come to you if you are settled in your personal life. Talk to the people who influence you the most and you can resolve any concerns you may have. A move or change at home will lead to a better future. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You will face opposition and people meddling in your affairs if you don't keep your thoughts to yourself. Travel and communications will lead to problems. A personal relationship will take a sudden turn. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Good fortune can be yours if you are diligent about closing deals and moving assets around. A settlement, legal matter or pending debt can be resolved. Someone from your past can help you bring about much-needed change. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You cannot expect matters to change unless you take action. Opposition is likely but at least it will bring everything out in the open. Use unusual methods to clear up old problems. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Life is moving fast, so be ready to take advantage of everything being offered. A change in your partnerships is apparent. Don't be afraid to rock the boat; it will show others that you mean business. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a dreamer who is creative, insightful and dramatic. You thrive on the unknown and embrace any challenge.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6			1			2	
3			9			1		5
				4	6		8	
	2				3	7		
4		6				9		2
		9	8				5	
	5		4	7				
6		8			5			4
	4			6			9	

Difficulty Level ★ 3/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

7	4	2	5	9	1	6	3	8
8	9	5	3	2	6	7	1	4
6	3	1	8	4	7	9	2	5
5	2	4	6	7	8	1	9	3
3	1	8	9	5	2	4	7	6
9	6	7	1	3	4	5	8	2
2	8	6	7	1	5	3	4	9
1	5	3	4	8	9	2	6	7
4	7	9	2	6	3	8	5	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE AMAZON RIVER **Solution: 8 letters**

P	R	E	L	G	N	U	J	N	O	N	A	R	A	M
E	G	M	R	N	E	I	C	M	O	R	O	N	A	R
R	R	V	O	A	A	O	S	A	H	E	A	T	O	A
U	E	G	A	U	I	P	G	E	Y	C	E	O	C	I
C	A	A	I	R	T	U	O	R	O	A	T	A	O	N
H	T	I	B	T	I	H	Q	N	A	M	L	M	N	F
A	E	V	M	B	T	Y	D	I	G	P	I	I	I	O
M	C	I	U	R	I	A	P	O	S	O	H	L	R	R
B	O	L	L	A	C	R	A	S	O	A	T	Y	O	E
I	R	O	O	Z	A	U	R	Z	A	L	C	O	S	S
R	E	B	C	I	C	C	A	E	A	N	F	E	Ⓑ	T
A	G	A	L	L	A	U	H	V	S	T	D	E	Ⓔ	I
P	I	S	A	P	I	N	Z	O	N	N	S	Y	Ⓝ	D
I	O	I	O	J	A	R	A	M	A	P	A	A	Ⓓ	E
D	N	N	M	A	N	A	U	S	E	I	C	E	P	S

© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 3/1

Amapa, Anaconda, Andes, Basin, Bend, Bolivia, Boto, Brazil, Casiquiare, Chambira, Columbia, Ecoregion, Flood, Geography, Great, Heat, Huallaga, Jungle, Lima, Manaus, Marajo, Maranon, Morona, Mouth, Move, Napo, Nucuray, Orinoco, Para, Pastaza, Peru, Pinzon, Pongo, Rainforest, Rapid, Root, Sandy, Solimoes, Species, Tides, Tigre, Titicaca, Ucayali

Last Saturday's Answer: Transfer

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WHATZIT Solution: Forked tongue

DRUNK DRIVING
Over the limit. Under arrest.

CAREFREE 285-6640 LAWN CLEANING SERVICE

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: Wednesday, January 6, 2010 **Closing Date:** Until Filled

JVA NO.	Position Title	Positions	Salary	Contract	Location
10-006	Dep. Dir. for Water Wastewater	One	Un-graded; Negotiable	Two-year	Water Wastewater, Saipan

Opening Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2010 **Closing Date:** March 4, 2010

JVA NO.	Position Title	Positions	Salary	Contract	Location
10-015	Technical Manager for Oil (TMO)	One	$79,616 - $88,462;	Two-year	Administration, Saipan

For more information about the position(s) being advertised, please stop by the Human Resources Office on the third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building.

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www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

Saipan Chamber of Commerce

REVISED JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Administrator / Planner

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is looking for a methodical and organized individual with initiative and excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

Job duties include:

- Overall management of Chamber office;
- Ability to analyze and critique legislation, letters, and other documents;
- Ability to work effectively with private companies and governmental agencies;
- Ability to plan and execute large-scale events from start to finish;
- Provide direct assistance to multiple Chamber committees;
- Prepare financial invoices and record financial transactions;
- Manage up-to-date, accurate, and organized files for committees, planning meetings, special projects, and workshops; and
- Support the Executive Director, Board of Directors, committees, and members.

This is a highly demanding and challenging position. Successful applicants must be adept at working and communicating with the public, must be able to handle many projects simultaneously, and must be able to take initiative and work independently under the general direction of the Executive Director.

Minimum requirements:

- Authorized to work in the United States;
- Excellent initiative and work ethic;
- Valid CNMI driver's license, insurance, and personal vehicle;
- Flexible work schedule;
- Strong communication skills, including ability to read, write, and speak clearly in grammatically-correct English;
- Skilled in use of Microsoft Word, Excel, Publisher, and Outlook; working knowledge of computers and other office equipment; and
- College AA degree and/or office management experience desirable.

Competitive salary ($10 - $15 per hour, commensurate with experience), benefits include paid time off and health insurance cost-sharing. Application deadline is 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 8, 2010. Please see the Job Description Summary available online at www.saipanchamber.com for a more complete list of tasks and knowledge requirements. Application forms are available at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office, Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan, or on the Chamber's website.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper Call 235-NEWS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

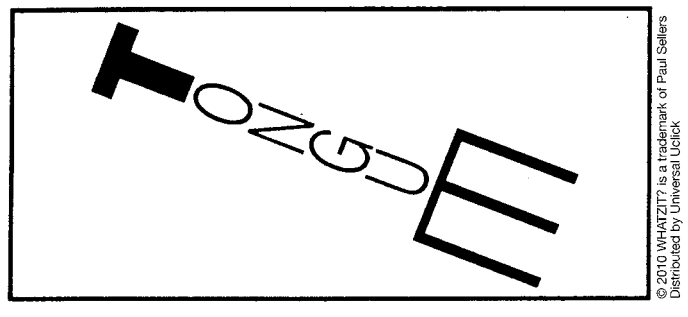
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in this section

Canada wins gold chase at Vancouver Games

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—They may not own the podium. But no one's knocking them off the top step.

Thanks to a surge of victories down the Olympic homestretch, including three on Saturday, Canada is assured of winning the most gold medals at the Vancouver Games.

A quick succession of triumphs—by the men's pursuit speedskating team, slalom snowboarder Jasey-Jay Anderson and the men's curling team—gave Canada 13 golds. With only two events left Sunday, no other country could catch up.

And if the Canadians win their hockey showdown with the United States, they'll go home with more winter gold than any nation ever.

Not bad for a country that just a week ago was waving the white flag in the medals race.

Sure, the United States, guaranteed no worse than a silver in men's hockey, will win the overall hardware count with at least 37. But Canada has put on a show in the second half of its home Olympics.

If Canada wins the men's hockey game against the U.S., it will break the record for most gold medals at a Winter Games—the Soviet Union in 1976 and Norway in 2002 each won 13.

Canada already has broken the host-nation mark of 10 golds shared by the United States in Salt Lake City in 2002 and Norway in Lillehammer in 1994.

Jasey Jay Anderson of Canada reacts as he crosses the finish line to become Olympic champion in the men's Parallel Giant Slalom snowboarding competition at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010.

AP

It's also the most gold medals Canada has won at any Olympics—winter or summer. Its previous high was 10 at the 1984 Summer Games in Los Angeles, which were boycotted by the Soviet Union and its allies.

The captain of the curling team was elated when told his team had secured the record-tying gold.

"We have 13, fantastic," Kevin Martin said. "We need to have more Olympic Games in our country, don't we?"

The surge over the past four days was a remarkable turnaround for Canada, which won no golds at all in the two previous Olympics it hosted—the 1976 Summer Games in Montreal and the 1988 Winter Games in Calgary.

And it's been a huge relief for Canadian Olympic officials, who entered these games predicting that their five-year, $117 million Own The Podium program would enable it to win the most medals overall.

"We thought we had the right plan—we knew these last four or five days were going to be in our wheelhouse," said Chris Rudge, CEO of the Canadian Olympic Committee. "But I don't think in our wildest dreams we thought we'd get this many golds."

Rudge said the games have been a "rollercoaster of emotion" for him—and that would apply to many Canadians as the fortunes of their Olympians fluctuated dramatically over the past two weeks before the homestretch burst of successes.

The very concept of Own The Podium sparked vigorous debate across the country, with some Canadians suggesting it smacked of arrogance to predict a medals victory and many others hailing it as a sign of self-confidence and national pride.

Rudge called it a "very healthy debate."

"What it's done is caused Canada to look within itself in a unique way, beyond just sport — a debate about who we are and what we value," he said. "If we continue this kind of debate, it makes us a richer, stronger and healthier country."

Fittingly, the pursuit speedskating team—which won the record-breaking 11th gold medal—was emblematic of how these Olympics have brought together a nation that is perennially challenged by linguistic and geographic divisions.

Its members were Denny Morrison from the Pacific Coast province of British Columbia, Lucas Makowsky from the prairie province of Saskatchewan and Mathieu Giroux from French-speaking Quebec in the east.

Assured of no worse than a silver medal in men's hockey, Canada will likely finish with 26 medals overall — good for third place and beating its previous mark of 24 set at Turin in 2006. It came close to boosting the total haul, with seven fourth-place finishes and 13 fifth-place finishes.

The United States had 36 medals overall though Saturday, with another—gold or silver—coming in Sunday's hockey final against Canada. Tickets for that game are being offered on Internet marketplaces such as Craigslist for several thousand dollars apiece.

Throughout the games, Canadian athletes said the home crowds were a major factor in spurring them on. And Martin, the curling captain, also gave credit to Own The Podium.

"It's given the athletes an opportunity to win, and that's what we need," he said.

USA's 'Night Train' drives into bobsled history

WHISTLER, British Columbia (AP)—They were bitter rivals, at least until the race was over.

Steve Holcomb has spent the better part of a decade chasing Andre Lange, trying to knock the German legend off his perch as bobsledding's best pilot.

Saturday was Holcomb's last chance.

Done deal. Bobsledding's torch was passed. And when it was over, minutes before Holcomb got his first Olympic medal and Lange got his last, they sat together and shared a beer, sliding's past and sliding's future toasting one another.

"Overwhelming," Holcomb said.

Holcomb drove USA-1 to the gold medal in four-man bobsledding Saturday, the first American pilot to do so since Francis Tyler at St. Moritz in 1948. By winning, he cemented the status of his famed "Night Train" sled and push team of Justin Olsen, Steve Mesler and Curt Tomasevicz as sliding's best.

"This will take a while for it to sink in," Holcomb said. "You work so hard and when you finally get there it's like, `Well, now what? I don't know what to do.' We've worked so hard and gone through so much in the last four years. To end on a high note like this is huge."

The high note came four hours later.

They jumped atop the medal podium together, each arm raised skyward, before each man bowed to have Olympic gold placed around their necks, none of them able to stop smiling. Then they put their right hands over the hearts, and as the national anthem blared and the U.S. flag was raised, Holcomb seemed to hold back tears.

And for the photo that followed, Holcomb knelt next to Lange, then shared one last hug with the man he needed to beat.

"This will change their life," USA-3 driver Mike Kohn said.

World champions, 2009. Olympic champions, 2010.

"You can't do any better," said U.S. coach Brian Shimer, a bronze medalist in 2002, the year the Americans also got a silver in four-man with Todd Hays joining Shimer on that podium.

With that, Shimer started to cry, unable to hold back any longer.

Holcomb absolutely tamed the track, his four runs completed in 3 minutes, 24.46 seconds. Lange was 0.38 seconds back for the silver, his quest to win five gold medals in five Olympic tries thwarted, and Canada's Lyndon Rush drove his sled to the bronze.

Lange celebrated wildly at the end, as if he had won. In his mind, he had.

"Coming into today," said Kevin Kuske, one of Lange's pushers, "we knew silver was all we could win."

Holcomb was that dominant. And not apologetic, either.

"I'm good friends with Andre, so it's a thrill," Holcomb said. "And at the same time, it's, `I didn't mean to rain on your parade—but I have my own parade going now.'"

He and his sledmates crossed the finish line, index fingers in the air, then wrapped each other in American flags as a red-white-and-blue crowd roared with delight. Holcomb hoisted his helmet as family and friends craned for photographs, and a party the U.S. program waited 62 years to throw was finally getting under way.

On the trackside podium for the flower ceremony, Tomasevicz pulled off Holcomb's hat, planting a smooch on his pilot's bald, sweaty head. Sealed with a kiss, it was, and then the four teammates stood together and did what's known as the "Holcy Dance," the little shuffle step that Holcomb does to keep his team loose.

Hours later, at the medal ceremony, they danced again.

"It means an awful lot," said Darrin Steele, CEO of the U.S. Bobsled and Skeleton Federation. "This has been a long road. But all the components came together. You put a sled and a team together, and you never know how it's going to go."

Holcomb was walking around trackside about an hour before the final heat, shaking his finger, mouthing the words "one more." With a lead of 0.45 seconds over Rush, all Holcomb needed to do was get his sled down the mountain without a huge mishap, knowing his lead was such that no one could catch him.

All he had to do was not wreck before Curve 13, this track's most dangerous turn, the one Holcomb himself dubbed "50-50" after seeing roughly one out of every two sleds crash there last year.

AP

The United States' Curtis Tomasevicz, right, kisses the top of the head of pilot Steven Holcomb after their team won the gold medal during the men's four-man bobsled final competition at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Whistler, British Columbia, Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010.

Holcomb and his sledmates grabbed each other by the hands one last time, took one last look down the hill and prepared to push the "Night Train"—the menacing, flat-black, super-high-tech sled that is coveted by almost every bobsledder in the world—into Olympic lore.

Holcomb's final message, Olsen said, was: "One more run. Let's do it."

A mere 51.52 seconds later, they did.

Randolph's 31 points, 25 rebounds dominate Knicks

NEW YORK (AP)—Zach Randolph had 31 points and a career-high 25 rebounds against his former team as the Memphis Grizzlies beat the New York Knicks 120-109 on Saturday to equal a franchise record with their fourth straight road victory.

Marc Gasol added 25 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists as the Grizzlies overwhelmed the Knicks' frontcourt. Rudy Gay scored 27 points for Memphis, which outrebounded New York 52-32.

Al Harrington scored 31 points for the Knicks, who got only 15 minutes from Tracy McGrady because of a sore left knee. David Lee added 21 points.

Nets 104, Celtics 96

At Boston, Brook Lopez scored 25 points, Devin Harris had 23 and Courtney Lee 21 to help New Jersey beat Boston.The Nets, 6-52 overall and 3-27, took a 29-27 lead on Keyon Dooling's jumper at the end of the first quarter and never trailed again.

Kevin Garnett had 26 points for the Celtics, playing their third straight game without Paul Pierce (thumb).

Jazz 133, Rockets 110

At Salt Lake City, Deron Williams scored 20 of his 35 points in the first quarter to help Utah set a season high for points.

Williams was 13 of 17 from the field and had 13 assists and seven rebounds. Carlos Boozer, Paul Millsap and Wes Matthews each added 18 points and the Jazz made a season-best 14 3-pointers. Kevin Martin scored 32 points for Houston.

Pacers 100, Bulls 90

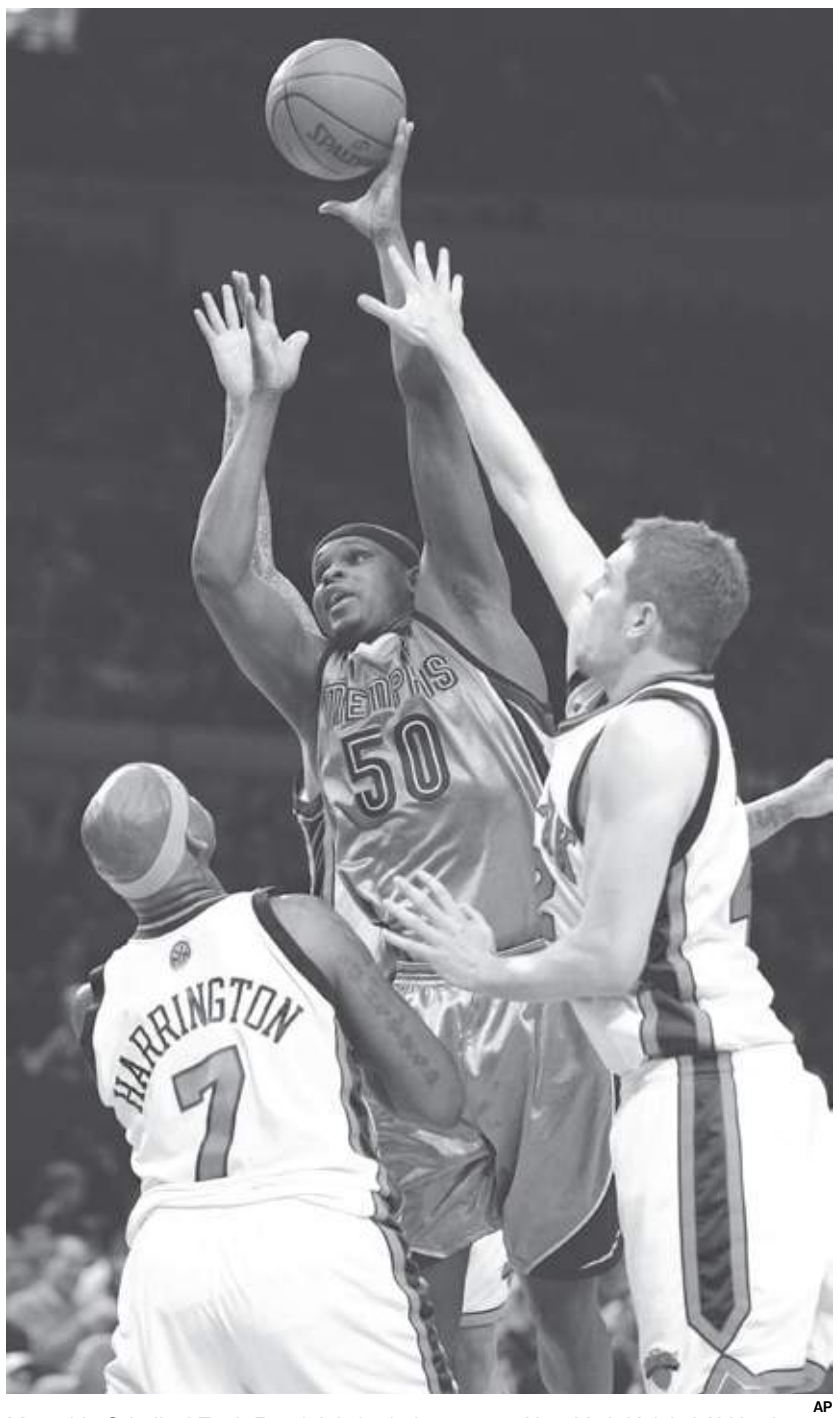
At Indianapolis, Danny Granger had 30 points and eight rebounds, and Dahntay Jones and Troy Murphy each had 17 points as Indiana downed Chicago.

The Pacers snapped a three-game losing streak and won for just the second time in nine games to improve to 20-39. Derrick Rose had 27 points for Chicago.

Trail Blazers 110, Timberwolves 91

At Minneapolis, Nicolas Batum scored a career-high 31 points and LaMarcus Aldridge added 21 as Portland cruised to another easy victory over Minnesota.

The Blazers have won 12 straight over the Wolves, including four victories this season by a combined 93 points. Al Jefferson led Minnesota with 19 points.



AP

Memphis Grizzlies' Zach Randolph (50) shoots over New York Knicks' Al Harrington (7) and teammate David Lee (42) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010, in New York.

Warriors 95, Pistons 88

At Oakland, California, Stephen Curry scored 27 points as Golden State rallied from a 14-point deficit to beat Detroit.

Anthony Tolliver added 19 points and 14 rebounds, and C.J. Watson scored 17 points in place of injured leading scorer Monta Ellis (sore back) ass the Warriors snapped a five-game losing streak against the Pistons.

Golden State held Detroit without a field goal for the final 3:52, with the Pistons only point in that span coming on a free throw by Ben Wallace on one of three trips to the line after intentional fouls by the Warriors. Wallace missed five of his six attempts late in the game, including consecutive air balls in the final minute.

Bucks 94, Heat 71

At Miami, John Salmons scored 18 points as Milwaukee took advantage of injured Dwyane Wade's absence from the Miami lineup to win its sixth game in a row.

Wade missed his fourth consecutive game because of a strained left calf and is doubtful for Sunday's game at Orlando.

Jermaine O'Neal had 14 points for Miami.

Confident Snedeker leads by shot at Phoenix Open

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Brandt Snedeker is back to playing like the rising young PGA Tour star he was supposed to be.

The 29-year-old Tennessean rolled in his sixth birdie of the day on No. 17 and finished at 14-under 199 for a one-shot lead over Scott Piercy in the Phoenix Open.

Snedeker shot a 66, while Piercy had a pair of eagles en route to a 65 in the third round Saturday amid a loud, rowdy crowd estimated at just over 121,000. Many were on hand for the party as much, or more than, for the tournament.

Rickie Fowler (69) and Matt Every (68) were two back at 12 under. Camilo Villegas, who shared the lead with Mark Wilson after two rounds, birdied the last two holes to finish even for the day and minus-11 for the tournament.

Wilson, Mark Calcavecchia and Lee Janzen were among nine at 10-under 203.

The 49-year-old Calcavecchia has won the Phoenix Open three times, in 1989, 1992 and 2001. The last of his 13 PGA tour victories came in 2007.

The sky was overcast with a threat of rain at TPC Scottsdale, and the wind kicked up late in the day. Perhaps that's why the crowd was more than 40,000 shy of the estimated 164,000 who attended on Saturday a year ago. The record is 170,000 in 2008.

But the scene was as wild as usual at the notorious 16th hole, where bleachers surround the par 3 and fans have special chants for virtually every golfer. The good shots draw lusty cheers, the bad ones loud boos.

"It was crazy," Snedeker said. "You've got to take it with a grain of salt and realize golf needs that. We need people out here having fun, being excited about being at a golf tournament. If you can't take it for one hole, good God, get over yourself and have some fun."

The same could be said of Snedeker's young career.

He was the 2007 PGA Tour rookie of the year, but his victory at the Wyndham Championship that season remains his lone win.

He struggled early last year, missing the cut 12 of 26 times and was sidelined eight weeks by a rib injury.

"You just listen to your hype," Snedeker said. "You hear people talking about how good you are and how much you could be the next big thing, you should be winning each week. And the minute you think that you should be winning the golf tournament each week, you're completely out of bounds."

The turnaround, he said, came last July at the AT&T National, where he tied for fifth.

"Literally like a flipped switch," Snedeker said, "and I said, `I'm sick and tired of this.' I don't care if I have to quit playing golf, I'm not going to keep playing the way I've been playing. And ever since then I've been playing good."

He tied for second Jan. 31 at Torrey Pines, one shot behind winner Ben Crane.

Snedeker's only bogey Saturday, on the par-4 14th, was the most critical hole of the round, he said.

He pulled his second shot into the left bunker. He failed to clear the bunker with his third shot and, with a bad lie, knocked his fourth shot 32 feet past the pin. Then he nailed the putt.

"That says a lot about where my head is right now," Snedeker said. "... It completely changed the way I walked on the 15th tee, feeling excited, confident, everything still going good."

Snedeker has led after three rounds only once before, at the 2007 Buick Open.

Piercy, in search of his first victory on the tour, will be in the final group at Phoenix for the second year in a row. He was a shot off the lead going into the last round a year ago and finished tied for sixth.

Piercy said he learned watching eventual winner Kenny Perry play that final round.

"He made a ton of pars. He didn't make any bogeys, or very few bogeys, and then when he made a birdie, that birdie was so huge," Piercy said.

He said it showed him "`rather than put on the gas pedal the whole time, maybe drive with a little bit of caution."

Piercy had a two eagles, the second one a tap-in on the par-4, 390-yard 10th hole, when his tee shot came to rest 10 inches from the pin.

The scene around the 16th was madness, with the mostly young crowd packed elbow-to-elbow, beer in hand.

People lined up to get into the bleachers as if it was some trendy Scottsdale night club.

When Snedeker teed off, fans nearest the tee shouted "gentleman, scholar, athlete," the golfer's high school motto.

When Piercy hit, they chanted the name of porn star Jenna Jameson, of all people.

"She went to the same high school as me," he explained.

Jordan faces challenges in owning the Bobcats

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Michael Jordan's drive and immense physical talent made him an NBA superstar. His stardom and shrewdness helped him make millions in business.

His latest venture will test his talents and skills like no other.

NBA commissioner David Stern said Saturday he expects Jordan to be approved as majority owner of the Charlotte Bobcats by the end of next month. Minutes before his exclusive negotiating window expired late Friday night, Jordan struck a deal with owner Bob Johnson to take over the money-losing team in his home state.

It puts the biggest basketball star of his generation in charge of a 6-year-old team that's never made the playoffs, has struggled to win over fans and has more than $150 million in debt.

Can Jordan's streak of business success continue?

"If he's going to be an absentee owner, just like Bob was, it's not going to work," said Felix Sabates, a NASCAR team owner who also holds a minority stake in the Bobcats. "I think if Michael makes a commitment and shows dedication, he can be very successful. He's a big icon in this part of the country."

An icon that has been rarely seen. He's been a part-owner of the Bobcats with the final say on all basketball decisions since 2006. But Jordan has kept a low profile, rarely attending practices or games, taking no role in marketing and leaving the day-to-day operations to a team of assistants.

But former Houston Rockets executive George Postolos, who had an ownership group together to buy the team before Jordan swooped in at the last minute, thinks the deal shows Jordan really wanted the team.

"It's a very substantial part of his net worth," Postolos said. "He's very, very committed."

Jordan remained silent on Saturday. Details of his ownership group—called MJ Basketball Holdings LLC—weren't available. Sabates said he won't be part of Jordan's ownership group, and believes Jordan is buying 100 percent of the team.

Johnson, the first black majority owner of a major professional sports team, has also declined comment after coming close to ridding himself of a venture that cost him a fortune.

"Whatever the number is, Bob is taking a huge financial loss," Sabates said. "He tried hard. He just made some stupid mistakes. Bob has a bit of an attitude problem that some people owe him. Nobody owes anybody anything."

Johnson, the founder of Black Entertainment Television, paid $300 million for the expansion team, which replaced the New Orleans-bound Hornets in this town and began play in 2004-05. Johnson, who maintained his residence in Washington, had several missteps, from a failed venture to start a regional sports network, pricing tickets too high, clashing with business leaders and struggling to win over fans soured by the Hornets' ugly exit.

SOUTHERN

From Page 28

make-or-break game.

The Eagles will face the top-seeded Kagman High School in today's playoff match for the right to duel Southern for the varsity championship.

The battle for the first finals berth was close only in the first half when Southern led by only a deuce after 20 minutes of play 15-13.

Both the Rays and the Knights struggled with their offense at the start of the game. However, in the second half Southern began finding its marks, hitting back-to-back triples early to widen its distance.

Matt Duenas gave the Rays their first basket in the second half, Melvin Cadiang followed it up with a triple, and then the latter connected on his own shot from beyond the arc. Duenas, who was held to a field goal in the first half, went on to tally 21 markers in the second, giving the Rays the needed lift on offense. The Southern banger scored in streaks in the second half, leading the Rays' breakaway.

Helping Duenas carry the scoring load for Southern was Cadiang, who chipped in nine markers.

Sean Sablan led the Knights' losing cause, drilling 11 points.

In the second playoff game, the Eagles foiled the Dolphins' bid for back-to-back titles with the former's five-point win. MHS won last year's varsity division title after beating Kagman.

GCA stunned the erstwhile champions despite letting its key player, Luther Taylor, sit on the bench for disciplinary action. Dae Min Jeon stepped up in absence of Taylor, scoring 14 points.

Angelo Salas and Moon Bin Hong also played key roles in the Eagles' victory. Salas made seven straight points in the stretch, while Hong canned two crucial free throws.

Hong's two charities gave GCA a 46-42 lead, with less than 10 seconds left. MHS had the chance to inch closer, but missed two shots from the stripe. In the ensuing play, the Dolphins fouled Kevin De Leon to stop the clock, which read at 1.7. De Leon nailed the first charity and then intentionally missed the second.

De Leon equaled Jeon's output, teaming up with the latter in bringing GCA back into the game in the second half.

The Eagles fell behind by six at the break, 18-24, before the trio of Jeon, De Leon, and Salas anchored the team's comeback in the second half. De Leon was held to four points in the first half, but tallied six points in succession in the second half, Jeon added six too, and Salas also hit consecutive baskets.

If the Eagles beat Kagman today, this will be the first time that GCA will make it to the varsity finals since joining MISO in the early 2000s. The Eagles are returning to MISO this season after missing the last four editions of the annual caging.

Kagman will aim for return trip to the finals and its first championship in the varsity division.

Wednesday's Game

SSHS 49 – M. Duenas 23, Castro 9, Cadiang 8, Ecalnea 4, Benavente 3.

MCS 38 – Sablan 11, T. Taguchi 9, Baka 8, Kautz 6, Yang 2, Camacho 2.

Scoring by halves: 15-13, 49-38.

Friday's Game

GCA 47 – De Leon 14, Jeon 14, Salas 9, Choi 6, Hong 4.

MHS 42 – Rasa 9, Williams 7, Namelo 6, Duatin 5, Metran 4, Mality 4, Francisco 4, Ano 3.

Scoring by halves: 18-24, 47-42.

ADVANCE

From Page 28

esta the lead.

Esdrelon trooped to the foul line in the last four seconds of the match after drawing a reach-in foul from Mike Olaitiman, with Advance/World Report on top by a hair, 90-89. Esdrelon, who earlier split his charities, failing to give Fiesta the lead, this time muffed both free throws.

The Fiesta gunner tried to get the offensive rebound after his second miss, but an Advance/World Resort player forced him to a held ball. The possession arrow pointed to World Resort, but Fiesta got the ball back when players from the former lost the ball to the baseline, with only a second left on the clock.

Rommel Usi inbounded the ball to John March Ong, who against heavy traffic was forced to hold on to the ball first instead of going for a catch-and-shoot play.

When time expired, Advance/World Resort players ran to their bench to celebrate their winning streak, which almost ended as they bungled a 10-point lead in the second quarter, 38-28, and six-point cushion in the last two minutes of the match, 89-83.

An Usi basket moved Fiesta within four, 89-85, and then Esdrelon made it a one-point game after hitting a triple, 88-89, with less than 50 seconds left on the clock.

Esdrelon had a chance to grab the lead when he was fouled on his way to the basket with the 24-second shot clock almost running out. He missed the first free throw, but made the second one to tie the game, 89-all.

Fiesta had another chance to seize the lead when World Resort's Juluis Tabamo missed a triple. However, Esdrelon's pass to a cutting Adonis Macoto was a bit short and was intercepted.

Esdrelon then gave up a preemptive foul on Mike Olaitiman in the fastbreak play. Olaitiman's first free throw hit nothing but the net, giving Advance/World Resort a one-point lead, 90-89, with seven ticks to go. Olaitiman's second charity was off and there was a battle for loose ball with an Advance/World Resort touching the leather last before it went out to the baseline, returning possession to Fiesta.

Esdrelon received the inbound pass from Edel Carino and even before the former crossed midcourt, Olaitiman attempted for a steal and was charged with a foul. Fortunately for Advance/World Resort, Esdrelon, who earlier earned a living at the stripe, hitting 14 free throws, missed the two crucial charities.

In the first game, Aqua Resort Club snapped Shirley's two-game winning run, nailing a 111-92 victory.

The win also put Aqua back on track after Fiesta's halted the former's own winning streak.

The Achugao-based squad drew 20-plus points from three players to improve to a 4-1 record.

Jessie Mina tallied 26, Pete Lizama added 22, and Glen Aquino chipped in 21. Two more Aqua players finished in double figures for the team's balance offense, as Gil Gapor and Ziddy Johanes contributed 17 and 11, respectively.

Errol Peredo paced Shirley's with 37 points, but could not extend the team's wining run to three when Aqua turned a three-point lead in the last three minutes of the match (87-84) to a 19-point victory.

First Game

Aqua 111 – Mina 26, Aquino 21, Lizama 22, Gapor 17, Johanes 11, Mc Achas 6, Mi. Achas 4, Acosta 4.

Shirley's 92 – Peredo 39, Guiab 15, Opone 15, Nicdao 14, Pablo 7, Mojar 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-23, 47-47, 77-74, 111-92.

Second Game

Advance/World Resort 90 – Vinas 22, Abuel 20, Olaitiman 19, Wabinga 11, Ritual 10, Navarro 2, Paras 2, Palma 2, Apasan 2, Espiritu 2.

Fiesta 89 – Esdrelon 38, Usi 15, Ong 14, Carino 11, De la Torre 6, Valdez 3, Salazar 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-21, 47-43, 65-68, 90-89.

FIELDERS

From Page 28

single at the bottom of the ninth inning to lift his team to an 8-7 win over the Lions during their game in the Senior division of the 2010 Saipan Little League Baseball on Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios.

With two outs and a 2-1 ball-strike count, Tenorio stepped up to the plate anew and hit his target with the ball going over the head of the Lions shortstop. It took a few precious seconds for the Lions to recover the ball and when they did, Marvin Ngeskebei, who came from second base, was already heading home and then safely slid to the plate.

The Fielders stole the win despite trailing, 1-4, going into the bottom of the seventh innings.

A two-run single from Patrick Tenorio moved the Fielders within two, 3-5. Third batter Kevin Villagomez flied out and then Lions relief pitcher Dominique Chargualaf struck out Jonah Villagomez.

The Lions were one strike away from wrapping up the match when fifth batter Johnny Guerrero had a full count. However, the Fielders got a break when Celis called a ball on Chargualaf's sixth pitch against Guerrero. Guerrero walked, while Patrick Tenorio later blasted a two-run single that cut Lions' lead to two.

Guerrero and Patrick Tenorio later reached home plate on Mike Tenorio's single. Mike Tenorio's base hit went to the right field with the Lions again struggling for the ball, giving Fielders' two runners enough time to make it home.

The Fielders had the opportunity to steal the win in regulation, but Ngeskebei, who had a single before Mike Tenorio's base hit, was beaten to third.

Neither team scored in the first extra inning, before the Lions broke the deadlock at the top of the ninth, 7-5, on Ricardo Dela Cruz's single and L.J. Norita's run off a passed all.

However, the Fielders came back again at the bottom of the ninth inning. Kevin Villagomez cut the lead to one, 6-7, scoring a run off a wild pitch and then Leo Mendiola tied the game after reaching home plate on Patrick Tenorio's sacrifice fly.

Ngeskebei was next at bat and singled. Then with two outs and Ngeskebei on second, Mike Tenorio delivered the big hit to win the match that took more than three hours to finish and forced SLLB organizers to turn on the lights at the "Tan Ko" ballfield.

Hunters 3, Ol'Aces 2

In the other Seniors game, the Hunters edged Ol'Aces in a low-scoring match, 3-2.

The Hunters allowed Ol'Aces to score only at the bottom of the first inning with Harry Nakamura making a two-run double.

Clayton Aguon started out on the mound for the Hunters, but was quickly relieved and his back-ups, Patrick Aguon and Joseph Palacios did a great job in keeping Ol'Aces without a run in the next six innings.

On offense, Hunters scored all their three runs off Ol'Aces' miscues. The last one was off a wild pitch with Palacios scoring at the top of the sixth inning. Palacios preserved the lead and the win at the bottom of the seventh after striking out Ol'Aces' last two batters.

Juniors TSL A's 10, Northern 5

In the first Junior division game, the Tan Siu Lin Athletics pulled off a come-from-behind win over Northern, 10-5.

The A's were without a run in the first four innings and were behind, 0-4, but started their rally with a six-run top of the fifth inning. Two more runs each in the sixth and seventh inning gave the A's back-to-back victories.

Survivors 7, Lions 2

In the other Junior division game, Survivors capitalized on Lions' errors at the bottom of the sixth inning to nail a 7-2 win.

The Lions were still in the game after five complete innings, trailing by only one, 2-3.

However two errors at center field and a wild pitch helped Survivors bring the lead to 7-3. Relief pitcher Jeff Lizama finished off the Lions, making three strikeouts in the last two innings and allowing only two hits.

JAPANESE

From Page 28

da, 21-9, to advance to the semifinals of the winner's bracket.

In the semis, Murakami and Sudoh was pitted against 2009 champion Chie Iwana and Yoko Miki and the first pair won, 21-8, to gain the first finals seat.

Iwana and Miki dropped to the loser's bracket and were dethroned when the duo of Ozaki and Kaneda pulled off a 21-18 upset in the last semifinals match.

In the All-Japanese finals, the game was neck-and-neck in the first half of the finals, before Murakami and Sudoh threatened to pull away, 20-15. Ozaki and Kaneda moved within two, 18-20, but the latter's spike was way short, as she was blocked by the net, giving Murakami and Sudoh their first Marianas Cup championship.

The 22-year-old Sudoh competed in her second Marianas Cup, while the 24-year-old Murakami was on her fifth stint in the annual tournament. Murakami placed third last year, teaming up with Kaneda.

"We were happy to finally win the championship. We had a great time playing against the U.S. pros and the local players for two days," Sudoh said.

U.S. pros Claire D'Amore and Jenn Snyder failed to bring their local teammates to the Top 3. D'Amore paired with Heather Kennedy and placed only fourth after losing to Ozaki and Kaneda in the quarterfinals.

Snyder teamed up with Nicole LeBlanc and finished eighth after the preliminary round, but lost in the first round of the playoffs against Iwana and Miki, 10-21. Snyder and LeBlanc then were eliminated when they bowed to Ozaki and Kaneda in the loser's bracket quarterfinals, 15-21.

In the men's division, U.S. pros Paul Baxter and Andrew Fuller also failed to finish in the Top 3.

Baxter, who won last year's event with teammate Hugo Dooner, this time joined forces with Jon Cramer, but won only twice in the playoffs. Baxter and Cramer lost to Fuller and Russ Quinn in the winner's bracket quarterfinals, 15-21, and the first pair were eliminated after a 13-15 defeat at the hands of Josh Cruz and Hiro Ozaki.

Fuller and Quinn advanced to the winner's bracket semis, but bowed to Daisuke Matsumoto and Junki Hatabe.

Results of the men's finals were unavailable at press time, as Matsumoto and Hatabe were still waiting for their foes. Dooner and Tyce Mister were battling Cruz Ozaki for the second finals seat last night.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	36	21	.632	–
Toronto	31	26	.544	5
Philadelphia	22	36	.379	14 1/2
New York	20	38	.345	16 1/2
New Jersey	6	52	.103	30 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	39	20	.661	–
Atlanta	36	21	.632	2
Miami	29	30	.492	10
Charlotte	28	29	.491	10
Washington	20	36	.357	17 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	46	14	.767	–
Chicago	31	28	.525	14 1/2
Milwaukee	30	28	.517	15
Detroit	21	38	.356	24 1/2
Indiana	20	39	.339	25 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	38	21	.644	–
San Antonio	32	24	.571	4 1/2
New Orleans	31	28	.525	7
Memphis	30	29	.508	8
Houston	29	29	.500	8 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	39	19	.672	–
Utah	38	21	.644	1 1/2
Oklahoma City	34	23	.596	4 1/2
Portland	35	27	.565	6
Minnesota	14	47	.230	26 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	44	15	.746	–
Phoenix	37	23	.617	7 1/2
L.A. Clippers	24	34	.414	19 1/2
Sacramento	19	39	.328	24 1/2
Golden State	17	41	.293	26 1/2

Yesterday's Games

New Jersey 104, Boston 96
Milwaukee 94, Miami 71
Indiana 100, Chicago 90
Memphis 120, New York 109
Portland 110, Minnesota 91
Utah 133, Houston 110
Golden State 95, Detroit 88

WINTER OLYMPIC MEDALS TABLE

Nation	G	S	B	Tot
Canada	13	7	5	25
Germany	10	12	7	29
United States	9	14	13	36
Norway	8	8	6	22
South Korea	6	6	2	14
Switzerland	6	0	3	9
China	5	2	4	11
Sweden	5	2	3	10
Austria	4	6	6	16
Netherlands	4	1	3	8
Russia	3	5	7	15
France	2	3	6	11
Australia	2	1	0	3
Czech Republic	2	0	4	6
Poland	1	3	2	6
Italy	1	1	3	5
Belarus	1	1	1	3
Slovakia	1	1	1	3
Britain	1	0	0	1
Japan	0	3	2	5
Croatia	0	2	1	3
Slovenia	0	2	1	3
Latvia	0	2	0	2
Finland	0	1	4	5
Estonia	0	1	0	1
Kazakhstan	0	1	0	1

The Associated Press

The Week in Sports

CNMI swimmers return to action

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth's swimmers were back on centers stage last week after missing in action for several months with Saipan Swimming Club and Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan holding a dual virtual meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Nearly 60 swimmers from both clubs participated in the meet, which had 12 events and results were sent to Japan for comparison and rankings.

At the end of the day, six new age group marks were made with Tsunami Saipan's Angel Marie Tan and Kaito Yanai logging three records each.

Tan posted the first record of the day when she timed in at 41.86 seconds in the 50m breaststroke in the girls' 9 to 10 age group, eclipsing the 42.52 seconds Myana Welch set on March 30, 2000.

Tan also set a new mark in the 100m breaststroke, clocking in at 1:31.27 to beat Welch's previous mark (1:35.37) recorded on Jan. 22, 2000. Tan's third record came in the 200m breaststroke when she logged 3:16.71.

In the same age group, Yanai made records in 50m and 100m freestyle, and 50m butterfly events.

The 10-year-old Yana timed in at 31.67 seconds in the 50m freestyle, crushing the 32.34 seconds set by SSC's Maxi Braig on April 4, 2009. Yanai also shattered Braig's record in the 50m butterfly, as the former timed in at 33.99 seconds against the 37.84 seconds the latter set on Feb. 6, 2009. In the 100m freestyle, Yanai clocked in at 1:09.49, passing the 1:11.57 mark Braig recorded on April 3, 2009.

After the dual meet, Tsunami Saipan's Kai Staal and Shin Kimura left Saipan for the Japan Open. The two swimmers are representing the CNMI to the Tokyo tournament, which featured medalists and finalists in the 2008 Beijing Olympics and in the World Championship in Rome.

Back in local action, various leagues on Saipan continued with Saipan Little League Baseball on its second week of action and the Shirley's and Navy Hill caging still playing regular season games.

In the Junior League, defending champion Docomo Patriots stayed unbeaten in two games and Ol'Aces winning over the Fielders. In the Majors, Survivors, Little Falcons, Dragons, and Braves also won their respective games.

In the Shirley's caging, defending champion Micronesian Brokers, Inc. is still on a roll with its 4-0 record and shares the top spot with the equally hot Advance/World Resort.

In the Navy Hill caging, the Sonics share the No. 1 spot in Division A with Rollers.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association has yet to start its youth league, but its program for 18-and-under strikers got a big boost when NMIFA received a $5,000 donation from Saipan Youth Football League.

SYFL is folding up and chose to donate its remaining funds to various sports organization pushing for sports development among the youth.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tsunami Saipan and Saipan Swim Club swimmers prepare to plunge into the pool during a dual virtual meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

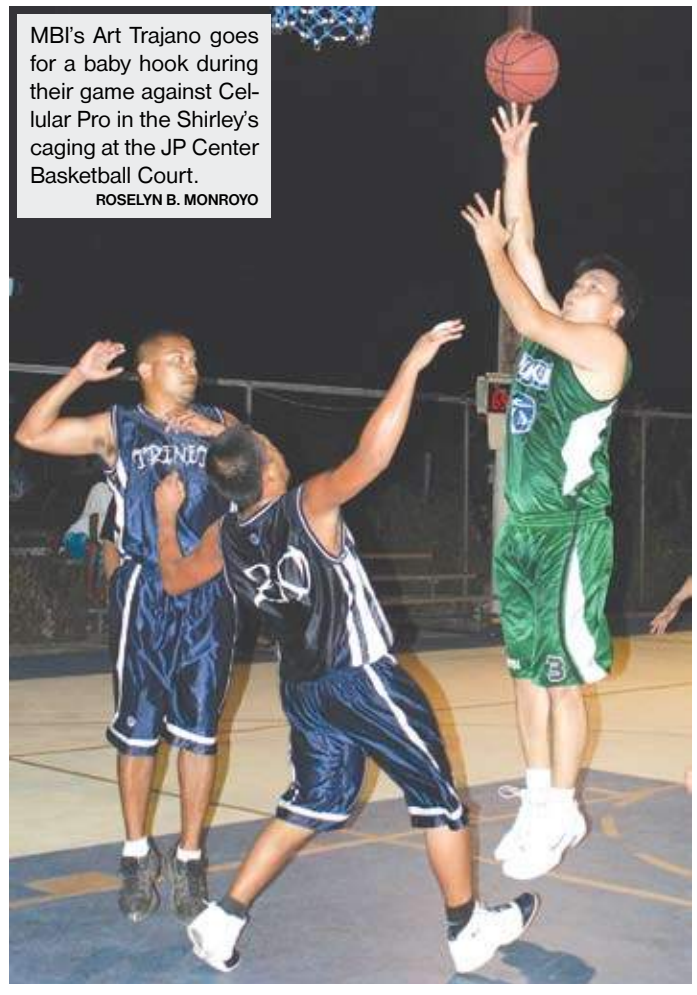
ROSELYN. MONROYO
SSC's Grace Kimball nears the finish line in the 100m backstroke swim during a dual virtual meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Youth Football League and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association officials chat before the donation turnover ceremony last week at the NMIFA office at the TSL Plaza.

ROSELYN B. MONTOYO
A Century A's pitcher takes a deep breath before delivering a pitch during their game against the Little Falcons in the Majors division of the SLLB last week at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Left, Advace/World Resort's Dennis Vinas, right, goes for a layup against Fiesta's Edel Carino during their game in the Shirley's caging at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Moonlight Shopping's Mike Umali barrels through the defense of Sonics' Chris Lansang during their game in the Navy Hill caging last week at the Garapan Basketball Court.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO



MBI's Art Trajano goes for a baby hook during their game against Cellular Pro in the Shirley's caging at the JP Center Basketball Court.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI swimmers return to action
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Canada wins gold chase at Vancouver Games
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Japanese pros top women's doubles of 2010 Marianas Cup

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Remi Sudoh, left, dives for the ball during her and teammate Megumi Murakami's title game against Mitzumi Ozaki and Hiroyo Kaneda in the women's division of the 18th Annual Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival yesterday at the PIC sand court. Murakami is pictured right.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Japanese pros Megumi Murakami and Remi Sudoh went undefeated for two days to top the women's doubles division of the 18th Annual Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival.

Murakami and Sudoh secured the women's title after beating compatriots Mitzumi Ozaki and Hiroyo Kaneda in yesterday's finals, 21-18, at the Pacific Islands Club sand court. The eventual winners used their quickness and good ball placement to prevail in the dig-and-dive title match.

Murakami and Sudoh were seeded second in the double-elimination playoffs and drew a bye in the first round then defeated Nina Mosley and teammate, 21-19, and then Ozaki and Kane-

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Fielders steal Senior League win from Lions

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

An exhausted umpire Roy Celis was on bended knees on a couple of times, as if praying for the end of the game between the Fielders and the Kagman Lions.

Fielders' Mike Tenorio answered Celis' prayers, making a one-run

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Fielders' Patrick Tenorio prepares to make a pitch against the Kagman Lions during their game in the Senior League division of the SLLB on Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko' Palacios Ballfield.

Southern advances to finals; GCA stays alive

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School claimed the first finals seat in the varsity division of the 2009-2010 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Basketball League, while Grace Christian Academy forced a playoff for the second and last final berth, following the Rays and Eagles separate wins.

The second-seeded Southern booked the first ticket to the finals after defeating Mt. Carmel School in the first playoff game, 49-38, on Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

In the second playoff match on Friday, the GCA Eagles dethroned last season's champions, the MHS Dolphins, via a 47-42 triumph in their

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GCA's Kevin De Leon, left, dribbles past a Southern defender during their regular season game in the varsity division of the MISO caging at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. The Eagles are still in contention for the finals, while Southern booked the first finals seat.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Advance/World Resort repulses Fiesta

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Advance/World Resort survived Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's rally, eking out a nail-biting 90-89 victory during the second game in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League on Friday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

The win improved Advance/World Resort's record to 4-0 in big thanks to Elmer Esdrelon, who muffed two charities, which could have given Fi-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Advance/World Resort's Mike Olaitiman, center, maneuvers his way out of the trapping defense of Fiesta's Rommel Usi, left, and Elmer Esdrelon during their game in the Shirley's caging on Friday at the JP Center Basketball Court.